SPORTS QUARTERLY presents...

Full Reports On 1978 NFL College Draft

PROS FOOTBALL 1978

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FALL 1978

The Legend Of Lyle Alzado

By Bob Gutkowski

DALLAS COWBOYS: Landry Looks Ahead

Early Season FORECASTS

SUPER BOWL XIII: Orange Crush In Miami's Orange Bowl?

- Statistics
- Complete Schedules
- All-Time Records

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LYLE ALZADO
Defensive End

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1978 NFL TV Schedul

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Our 1977 Record - Against the Spread - Betting in Vegas

GAMES PLAYED WEEK OF	AMOUNT WAGERED ($300.00 A GAME)	GAMES WON-LOST	DOLLARS WON (LOST)	BANKROLL (STARTING WITH $2,500)
Sept. 11	$2,400	5 - 3	$510	$3,010
Sept. 18	2,700	6 - 3	810	3,820
Sept. 25	2,400	6 - 2	1,140	4,960
Oct. 2	3,000	6 - 4	480	5,440
Oct. 9	1,500	5 - 0	1,500	6,940
Oct. 16	3,300	8 - 3	1,410	8,350
Oct. 23	3,600	8 - 4	1,080	9,430
Oct. 30	2,100	5 - 2	840	10,270
Nov. 6	2,700	8 - 1	2,070	12,340
Nov. 13	1,800	2 - 4	(720)	11,620
Nov. 20	600	1 - 1	(30)	11,590
Nov. 27	600	2 - 0	600	12,190
Dec. 4	900	3 - 0	900	13,090
Dec. 11	600	1 - 1	(30)	13,060

EVERY STATEMENT IN THIS AD IS 100% TRUE AND IS DOCUMENTED BY OUR SELECTIONS IN EACH OF OUR WEEKLY ISSUES (OUR SUBSCRIBERS SAW IT HAPPEN EACH WEEK)

WINNERS SPORTS SERVICE IS No. 1 WITH A 10 YEAR RECORD OF BEATING THE SPREAD 69%!

Winners Sports Service is a weekly football newsletter predicting the outcome and point spread of all pro and major college games. It has beaten the spread 69% the last 10 years. If one beats the spread 53% he is considered a winner. We consider 53% a disaster.

OUR MAN "JOE" IN VEGAS

Five years ago we made up a character "Joe" and pretended to fly him to Vegas. Betting on Winners picks, Joe doubled his bankroll in 1973, tripled in 1974, made 5 times in 1975, 3 times in 1976, 5 times in 1977!

DR. DONALD SULLIVAN, PH.D — THE GENIUS BEHIND IT

Winners was founded by Dr. Donald Sullivan, Ph.D, a research psychologist and college professor with extensive knowledge in statistics, probability and advanced computer technology. He played football in college (he's a bruising 6'4"). He is renowned for expertise in sports predictions and recognized as one of the best sports predictors. He spoke at the Sports Handicapping Seminar in Las Vegas last year on the role of the computer in sports predicting. On the dais were Bob Martin, the man who makes the Vegas line, Mort Olshan of the Gold Sheet and Lem Banker, one of the country's heaviest bettors.

VEGAS LINE IN EACH ISSUE

We receive the Vegas line late Sunday night and print it in each issue. You can see Dr. Sullivan's line next to the Vegas line and can immediately tell what the good plays are.

CBS-TV FACTFINDER TEAM SURVEYS FOOTBALL PREDICTION SERVICES

On Sept. 9, 1977, WINNERS received a request from CBS-TV, Chicago Station WBBM Sports Factfinder Investigation Team to participate in their comparison of football prediction services. They requested each service to send them all back issues from 1976 plus the upcoming 5 issues for Oct. 1977. They would then analyze the results and air a report on the findings. Quoting from their letter: "If you truly have the confidence that your advertisements imply, this is the chance to prove yourself." We complied and the results of the survey were aired on CBS-TV on Nov. 14, 15 and 16. Overall, the report did not have too high an opinion of the services. The ones they checked averaged only 49.5% against the spread. One could have picked teams at random and done as well. The announcer then said the best service did 69% against the spread. As the TV camera focused in on the WINNERS AD, the announcer stated that this was the best service, one of the least expensive, and also offers a money-back guarantee. We, at Winners, are proud of this recognition, but we (and our subscribers) always knew we were the best.

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We have always offered an unconditional money-back guarantee which means that if you're not satisfied at any time, even after 16 weeks of service, your money is refunded just for the asking.

OUR RECORD IS IN EACH ISSUE

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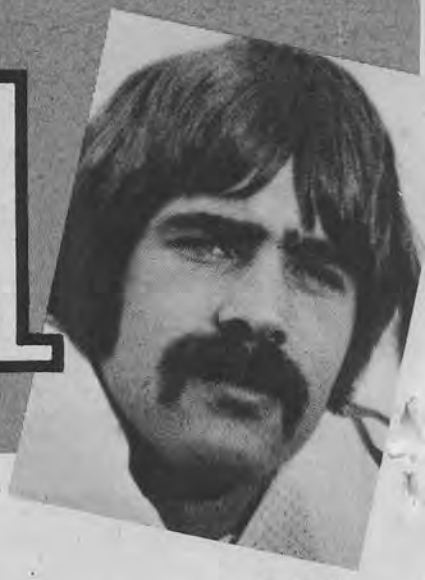
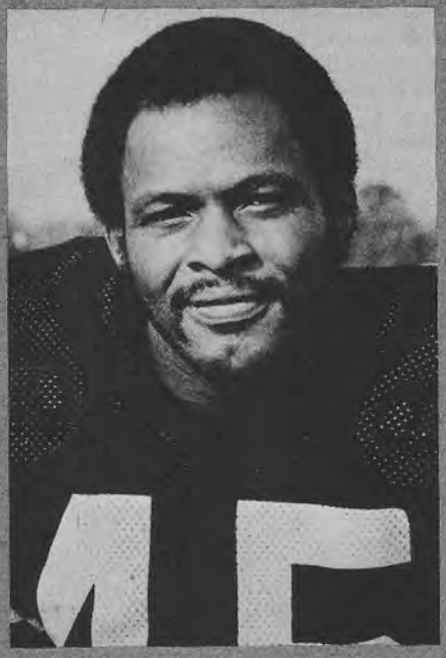


Jay Saldi
Tight End
Cowboys



Archie Griffin
Running Back
Bengals

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26X113	Sports Encyclopedia-Pro Football	$ 14.95
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15x77	Minnesota Vikings-Scrambler's Story	$ 3.95
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1971 Topps Football...264 Cards	$ 24.95
1970 Topps Football...263 Cards	$ 25.95
1969 Topps Football...219 Cards	$ 28.95
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☐ 1967 Topps Baseball Cards-20 different	$ 5.00
☐ 1968 Topps Baseball Cards-20 different	$ 3.50
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☐ 1966 Phila. Gum NFL-20 differnt	$ 3.00
☐ 1967 Phila. Gum NFL-20 different	$ 3.00
☐ 1967 Topps AFL-20 different	$ 3.00
☐ 1968 Topps NFL-AFL-20 different	$ 3.00
☐ 1969 Topps NFL-AFL-20 different	$ 3.00
☐ 1970 Topps NFL-AFL-20 different	$ 2.50
☐ 1971 Topps NFC-20 different	$ 2.50
☐ 1972 Topps NFC-20 differnt	$ 2.50
☐ 1973 Topps NFC-20 different	$ 2.50
☐ 1974 Topps NFC-20 different	$ 2.00
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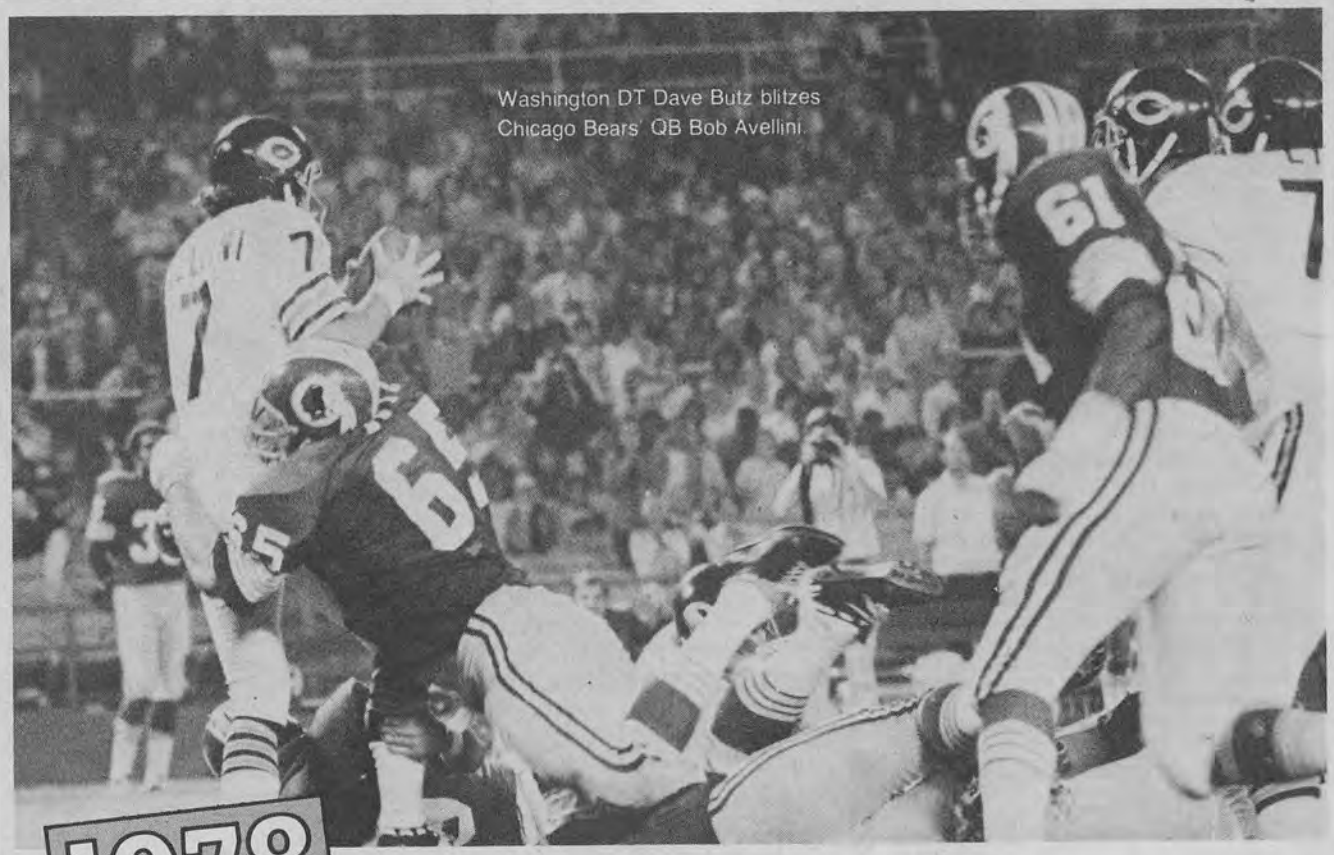

Washington DT Dave Butz blitzes Chicago Bears' QB Bob Avellini

1978 National Football League TELEVISION SCHEDULE

PRE-SEASON EXHIBITION GAMES ON TV

July 29 Miami vs. Philadelphia at Canton, O.	ABC Day
Aug. 12 Dallas at Denver	CBS Day
Aug. 18 Minnesota at Miami	ABC Night
Aug. 20 Oakland at San Francisco	NBC Day
Aug. 25 San Francisco at Denver	ABC Night
Aug. 26 Los Angeles at Oakland	NBC Night
Aug. 27 Cleveland at New England	CBS Day

REGULAR SEASON

Sept. 4 Baltimore at Dallas (night)	ABC
Sept. 11 Denver At Minnesota (night)	ABC
Sept. 18 Baltimore at New England (night)	ABC
Sept. 24 New England at Oakland (night)	ABC
Sept. 25 Minnesota at Chicago (night)	ABC
Oct. 2 Dallas at Washington (night)	ABC
Oct. 9 Cincinnati at Miami (night)	ABC
Oct. 16 Chicago at Denver (night)	ABC
Oct. 23 Houston at Pittsburgh (night)	ABC
Oct. 26 Minnesota at Dallas (night)	ABC
Oct. 30 Los Angeles at Atlanta (night)	ABC
Nov. 6 Washington at Baltimore (night)	ABC
Nov. 12 Pittsburgh at Los Angeles (night)	ABC
Nov. 13 Oakland at Cincinnati (night)	ABC
Nov. 20 Miami at Houston (night)	ABC
Nov. 23 Denver at Detroit	NBC
Nov. 23 Washington at Dallas	CBS
Nov. 27 Pittsburgh at San Francisco (night)	ABC
Dec. 3 Denver at Oakland (night)	ABC
Dec. 4 Chicago at San Diego (night)	ABC
Dec. 9 Baltimore at Pittsburgh	NBC
Dec. 9 Minnesota at Detroit	CBS
Dec. 11 Cincinnati at Los Angeles (night)	ABC
Dec. 16 Chicago at Washington	CBS
Dec. 16 Pittsburgh at Denver	NBC
Dec. 18 New England at Miami (night)	ABC

TV DOUBLEHEADER GAMES

(The following games will be seen on Sunday in many areas as parts of television "double-headers")

Sept. 3 Oakland at Denver	NBC
Sept. 10 Miami at Baltimore	NBC
Sept. 17 Dallas at Los Angeles	CBS
Sept. 24 St. Louis at Dallas	CBS
Oct. 1 Oakland at Chicago	NBC
Oct. 8 San Francisco at Los Angeles	CBS
Oct. 15 Los Angeles at Minnesota	CBS
Oct. 22 Denver at Baltimore	NBC
Oct. 29 Baltimore at Miami	NBC
Nov. 5 Dallas at Miami	CBS
Nov. 12 Chicago at Minnesota	CBS
Nov. 19 Los Angeles at San Francisco	CBS
Nov. 26 New England at Baltimore	NBC
Dec. 3 New England at Dallas	NBC
Dec. 10 Oakland at Miami	NBC
Dec. 17 Minnesota at Oakland	CBS

POSTSEASON CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

Dec. 24 NFL First Round Playoffs	CBS & NBC
Dec. 30 AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs	NBC & CBS
Dec. 31 AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs	NBC & CBS
Jan. 7 AFC Championship Game	NBC
Jan. 7 NFC Championship Game	CBS
Jan. 21 Super Bowl XIII in Orange Bowl, Miami	NBC
Jan. 29 AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Los Angeles (night)	ABC

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1977 American Football Conference Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS

EASTERN	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opps.
Baltimore*	10	4	0	.714	295	221
Miami	10	4	0	.714	313	197
New England	9	5	0	.643	278	217
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	191	300
Buffalo	3	11	0	.214	160	313

CENTRAL	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opps.
Pittsburgh*	9	5	0	.643	283	243
Houston	8	6	0	.571	299	230
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	238	235
Cleveland	6	8	0	.429	269	267

WESTERN	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opps.
Denver*	12	2	0	.857	274	148
Oakland†	11	3	0	.786	351	230
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	222	205
Seattle	5	9	0	.357	282	373
Kansas City	2	12	0	.143	225	349

*Division winner †Wild card team for playoffs

Championship Playoff Results

AFC divisional playoff: Denver 34, Pittsburgh 21
AFC divisional playoff: Oakland 37, Baltimore 31**
AFC championship game: Denver 20, Oakland 17
Super Bowl XII: Dallas 27, Denver 10
**15:43 overtime

LEADING SCORERS

TOUCHDOWNS	TDs	Rush.	Pass.	Ret.	Pts.
N. Moore, Mia.	13	1	12	0	78
Harris, Pitt.	11	11	0	0	66
Largent, Sea.	10	0	10	0	60
Burrough, Hou.	8	0	8	0	48
McCauley, Balt.	8	6	2	0	48
Sims, Sea.	8	5	3	0	48
B. Johnson, Hou.	7	1	3	3	42
Mitchell, Balt.	7	3	4	0	42
Stallworth, Pitt.	7	0	7	0	42
Swann, Pitt.	7	0	7	0	42
van Eeghen, Oak.	7	7	0	0	42

KICK SCORING	PATs	FGs	Long	Pts.
Mann, Oak.	39-42	20-28	42	99
Linhart, Balt.	32-35	17-26	45	83
Bahr, Cin.	25-26	19-27	47	82
Cockroft, Clev.	30-31	17-23	44	81
Smith, N.E.	33-33	15-21	44	78
Turner, Den.	31-34	13-19	48	70
Benirschke, S.D.	21-24	17-23	47	72
Yepremian, Mia.	37-40	10-22	48	67
Leahy, N.Y. Jets	18-21	15-25	48	63
Gerela, Pitt.	34-37	9-14	49	61
Leypoldt, Sea.	33-37	9-18	51	60

TOP PASSERS	Pct. Com.	Avg. Yds.	Had Int.	TDs	Rating
Griese, Mia.	58.6	7.34	13	22	88.0
Morton, Den.	51.6	7.59	8	14	82.1
Jones, Balt.	57.0	6.83	11	17	80.7
Stabler, Oak.	57.5	7.40	20	20	75.2
Bradshaw, Pitt.	51.6	8.04	19	17	71.2
K. Anderson, Cin.	51.4	6.64	11	11	69.8
Grogan, N.E.	52.5	7.09	21	17	65.3
Pastorini, Hou.	53.0	6.23	18	13	62.6
Sipe, Clev.	57.4	6.32	14	9	61.6
Todd, N.Y. Jets	50.2	7.03	17	11	60.6

LEADING RECEIVERS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
Mitchell, Balt.	71	620	8.7	4
Chandler, Buff.	60	745	12.4	4
Gaines, N.Y. Jets	55	469	8.5	1
N. Moore, Mia.	52	765	14.7	12
McCauley, Balt.	51	495	9.7	2
Swann, Pitt.	50	789	15.8	7
White, K.C.	48	674	14.0	5
Casper, Oak.	48	584	12.2	6
Young, S.D.	48	423	8.8	0
Stallworth, Pitt.	44	784	17.8	7
Burrough, Hou.	43	816	19.0	8
Braxton, Buff.	43	461	10.7	1

INTERCEPT. LEADERS	No.	Yds.	Long	TDs
Blackwood, Balt.	10	163	37	0
Greene, Buff.	9	144	47	0
Barbaro, K.C.	8	165	102	1
Clark, Buff.	7	151	43	0
White, Balt.	7	84	19	0
Tatum, Oak.	6	146	41	0
Darden, Clev.	6	107	49	1
Blount, Pitt.	6	65	37	0
Beamon, Sea.	6	36	20	0

LEADING RUSHERS	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
van Eeghen, Oak.	324	1273	3.9	7
Harris, Pitt.	300	1162	3.9	11
Mitchell, Balt.	301	1159	3.9	3
G. Pruitt, Clev.	236	1086	4.6	3
Cunningham, N.E.	270	1015	3.8	4
Davis, Oak.	194	787	4.1	5
Smith, Sea.	163	763	4.7	4
Miller, Clev.	163	756	4.6	4
Calhoun, N.E.	198	727	3.7	4
Coleman, Hou.	185	660	3.6	5

LEADING PUNTERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Guy, Oak.	59	2552	43.3	74
McInally, Cin.	67	2802	41.8	67
Wilson, K.C.	88	3510	39.9	59
Bateman, Buff.	81	3229	39.9	75
Weaver, Sea.	58	2293	39.5	59
Prasley, Hou.	77	3030	39.4	55
Dilts, Den.	90	3525	39.2	63
Coleman, Clev.	61	2389	39.2	58

PUNT RET LEADERS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
B. Johnson, Hou.	35	539	15.4	87
Morgan, N.E.	16	220	13.8	53
Moody, Buff.	15	196	13.1	91
Fuller, S.D.	28	360	12.9	88
Upchurch, Den.	51	653	12.8	87
Harper, N.Y. Jets	34	425	12.5	49
Davis, Cin.	19	220	11.6	70
Kimbrough, Buff.	16	184	11.5	73
Rodgers, S.D.	15	158	10.5	52
Colzie, Oak.	32	334	10.4	23

KO RETURN LEADERS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Clayborn, N.E.	28	869	31.0	101
Davis, Mia.	14	414	29.6	73
B. Johnson, Hou.	25	640	25.6	76
Harper, N.Y. Jets	42	1035	24.6	60
J. Smith, Pitt.	16	381	23.8	37
Kimbrough, Buff.	15	346	23.1	27
L. Smith, Pitt.	16	365	22.8	33
Upchurch, Den.	20	456	22.8	32
Hunter, Sea.	36	820	22.8	41

TEAM TOTAL OFFENSE	Yds.	Rush.	Pass.	Avg.PG
Oakland	4736	2627	2109	338.3
Pittsburgh	4645	2258	2387	331.8
Baltimore	4588	2123	2465	327.7
Buffalo	4391	1861	2530	313.6
Cleveland	4375	2200	2175	312.5
Miami	4327	2366	1961	309.1
New England	4310	2303	2007	307.9
Seattle	4292	1964	2328	306.6
Cincinnati	4181	1848	2333	298.6
San Diego	4005	1761	2244	286.1
Kansas City	3936	1843	2093	281.1
Denver	3906	2043	1863	279.0
Houston	3873	1998	1875	276.6
New York Jets	3620	1618	2002	258.6

TEAM RUSH OFFENSE	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	Avg.PG
Oakland	681	2627	3.9	187.6
Miami	519	2366	4.6	169.0
New England	603	2303	3.8	164.6
Pittsburgh	581	2258	3.9	161.3
Cleveland	510	2200	4.3	157.1
Baltimore	566	2123	3.8	151.6
Denver	523	2043	3.9	145.9
Houston	509	1998	3.9	142.7
Seattle	461	1964	4.3	140.3
Buffalo	450	1861	4.1	132.9
Cincinnati	488	1848	3.8	132.0
Kansas City	456	1843	4.0	131.6
San Diego	488	1761	3.6	125.8
New York Jets	437	1618	3.7	115.6

TEAM PASS OFF.	Atts.	Com.	Pct.	Int.	Avg. Yds.	QB Sacked
Buffalo	458	221	48.3	24	180.7	36
Baltimore	395	224	56.7	12	176.1	26
Pittsburgh	341	173	50.7	21	170.5	27
Cincinnati	385	192	49.9	16	166.6	31
Seattle	387	175	45.2	32	166.3	21
San Diego	369	206	55.8	20	160.3	24
Cleveland	377	208	55.2	31	155.4	24
Oakland	324	184	56.8	24	150.6	25
Kansas City	374	190	50.8	26	149.5	48
New England	305	160	52.5	21	143.4	14
New York Jets	360	170	47.2	26	143.0	35
Miami	311	182	58.5	14	140.1	36
Houston	347	181	52.2	21	133.9	23
Denver	314	163	51.9	12	133.1	50

TEAM TOTAL DEFENSE	Yds.	Rush.	Pass.	Avg.PG
New England	3638	1605	2033	259.9
San Diego	3652	1927	1725	260.9
Pittsburgh	3692	1723	1969	263.7
Denver	3775	1531	2244	269.6
Houston	3944	1802	2142	281.7
Oakland	3976	1754	2222	284.0
Miami	3982	1749	2233	284.4
Baltimore	3988	1798	2190	284.9
Cleveland	4115	2098	2017	293.9
Cincinnati	4133	1906	2227	295.2
Buffalo	4453	2405	2048	318.1
New York Jets	4648	2245	2403	332.0
Seattle	4818	2485	2333	344.1
Kansas City	4993	2971	2022	356.6

TEAM RUSH DEFENSE	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	Avg.PG
Denver	470	1531	3.3	109.4
New England	452	1605	3.6	114.6
Pittsburgh	493	1723	3.5	123.1
Miami	467	1749	3.7	124.9
Oakland	408	1754	4.3	125.3
Baltimore	423	1798	4.3	128.4
Houston	522	1802	3.5	128.7
Cincinnati	525	1906	3.6	136.1
San Diego	508	1927	3.8	137.6
Cleveland	524	2098	4.0	149.9
New York Jets	575	2245	3.9	160.4
Buffalo	589	2405	4.1	171.8
Seattle	596	2485	4.2	177.5
Kansas City	634	2971	4.7	212.2

TEAM PASS DEF.	Atts.	Com.	Pct.	Int.	Avg. Yds.PG	QB Sacks
San Diego	330	172	52.1	31	123.2	44
Pittsburgh	357	157	44.0	31	140.6	32
Cleveland	340	184	54.1	23	144.1	31
Kansas City	333	175	52.6	21	144.4	25
New England	356	188	52.8	19	145.2	58
Buffalo	316	155	49.1	21	146.3	17
Houston	379	192	50.7	26	153.0	32
Baltimore	382	181	47.4	30	156.4	47
Oakland	367	177	48.2	26	158.7	35
Cincinnati	351	196	55.8	16	159.1	25
Miami	414	226	54.6	15	159.5	20
Denver	426	235	55.2	25	160.3	35
Seattle	349	199	57.0	25	166.6	18
New York Jets	377	215	57.0	11	171.6	26

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5	3	2	3a	13r	21	5
6	17	14	LG	22s	21	6
7	X	8	16	19r	21	7
8	6	11b	X	5	22	8
9	7	X	X	24s	22	9
10	X	16	X	26s	22	10
11	9	X	X		23	11
12	X	X	X	27s	23	12
13	11	15	10	22r	23	13
14		X	9b	27i	24	14
15	16	7a		24r	24	15
16	13	4	15	28i	24	16
17	15		30i	5r	20	17
18			1		12	18

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1977 National Football Conference Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS

EASTERN	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opps.
Dallas*	12	2	0	.857	345	212
Washington	9	5	0	.643	196	189
St. Louis	7	7	0	.500	272	287
Philadelphia	5	9	0	.357	220	207
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	181	265

CENTRAL	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opps.
Minnesota*	9	5	0	.643	231	227
Chicago†	9	5	0	.643	255	253
Detroit	6	8	0	.429	183	252
Green Bay	4	10	0	.286	134	219
Tampa Bay	2	12	0	.143	103	223

WESTERN	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opps.
Los Angeles*	10	4	0	.714	302	146
Atlanta	7	7	0	.500	179	129
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	220	260
New Orleans	3	11	0	.214	232	336

*Division championship †Wild card team for playoffs

Championship Playoff Results

NFC divisional playoff: Dallas 37, Chicago 7
NFC divisional playoff: Minnesota 14, Los Angeles 7
NFC championship game: Dallas 23, Minnesota 6
Super Bowl XII: Dallas 27, Denver 10

LEADING SCORERS

TOUCHDOWNS	TDs	Rush	Pass	Ret	Pts.
Payton, Chi.	16	14	2	0	96
Dorsett, Dall.	13	12	1	0	78
Childs, N.O.	9	0	9	0	54
Foreman, Minn.	9	6	3	0	54
McCutcheon, L.A.	9	7	2	0	54
Morris, St.L.	9	8	1	0	54
S. White, Minn.	9	0	9	0	54
Del Williams, S.F.	9	7	2	0	54
Carmichael, Phil.	7	0	7	0	42
Jackson, S.F.	7	7	0	0	42
Muncie, N.O.	7	6	1	0	42

KICK SCORING	PATs	FGs	Long	Pts.
Herrera, Dall.	39-41	18-29	52	93
Septien, L.A.	32-35	18-30	45	86
Moseley, Wash.	19-19	21-37	54	82
Thomas, Chi.	27-30	14-27	47	69
Danelo, N.Y. Giants	19-20	14-23	51	61
Bakken, St.L.	35-36	7-16	49	56
Wersching, S.F.	23-23	10-17	50	53
Marcol, G.B.	11-14	13-21	44	50
Cox, Minn.	25-29	8-17	42	49
Mike-Mayer, Phil.	14-14	10-22	44	44
Szaro, N.O.	29-31	5-12	31	44

TOP PASSERS	Pct. Com.	Avg. Yds.	Had Int.	TDs	Rating
Staubach, Dall.	58.2	7.26	9	18	87.1
Haden, L.A.	56.5	7.18	6	11	84.4
Tarkenton, Minn.	60.1	6.72	14	9	69.3
Landry, Det.	56.3	5.66	7	6	68.8
Manning, N.O.	55.1	6.26	9	8	68.8
Kilmer, Wash.	49.3	5.91	7	8	66.6
Hart, St.L.	52.3	7.16	20	13	64.5
Plunkett, S.F.	51.6	6.83	14	9	62.2
Avellini, Chi.	52.6	6.84	18	11	61.7
Jaworski, Phil.	48.0	6.31	21	18	60.3
Theismann, Wash.	46.2	6.03	9	7	58.0
Dickey, G.B.	51.4	6.12	14	5	51.4
Pisarcik, N.Y. Giants	42.7	5.59	14	4	42.5

LEADING RECEIVERS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
Rashad, Minn.	51	681	13.4	2
Scott, Chi.	50	809	16.2	3
D. Pearson, Dall.	48	870	18.1	2
H. Jackson, L.A.	48	666	13.9	6
Carmichael, Phil.	46	665	14.5	7
P. Pearson, Dall.	46	535	11.6	4
S. White, Minn.	41	760	18.5	9
Galbreath, N.O.	41	265	6.5	0
Harris, St.L.	40	547	13.7	3
King, Det.	40	238	6.0	0
Jenkins, Atl.	39	677	17.4	4
Gray, St.L.	38	782	20.6	5
Foreman, Minn.	38	308	8.1	3

INTERCEPT. LEADERS	No.	Yds.	Long	TDs
Lawrence, Atl.	7	138	36	0
Simpson, L.A.	6	157	42	0
Sanders, Phil.	6	122	45	0
Hunter, Det.	6	104	26	0
Ellis, Chi.	6	23	11	0
Edwards, Phil.	6	9	6	0

LEADING RUSHERS	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
Payton, Chi.	339	1852	5.5	14
McCutcheon, L.A.	294	1238	4.2	7
Foreman, Minn.	270	1112	4.1	6
Dorsett, Dall.	208	1007	4.8	12
Del Williams, S.F.	269	934	3.5	7
Stanback, Atl.	247	873	3.5	6
Muncie, N.O.	201	811	4.0	6
Thomas, Wash.	228	806	3.5	3
Jackson, S.F.	179	780	4.4	7
Metcalf, St.L.	149	739	5.0	4
Newhouse, Dall.	180	721	4.0	3

LEADING PUNTERS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Blanchard, N.O.	82	3474	42.4	66
James, Atl.	105	4349	41.4	61
Parsons, Chi.	80	3232	40.4	58
Green, T.B.	98	3948	40.3	70
Jennings, N.Y. Giants	100	3993	39.9	58
Beverly, G.B.	85	3391	39.9	59
Clabo, Minn.	83	3302	39.8	69
D. White, Dall.	80	3171	39.6	57
Bragg, Wash.	91	3502	38.5	56

PUNT RET LEADERS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Marshall, Phil.	46	489	10.6	48
Hammond, N.Y. Giants	32	334	10.4	68
Payton, Det.	30	290	9.7	87
Schubert, Chi.	31	291	9.4	70
Harrell, G.B.	28	253	9.0	75
Reece, T.B.	31	276	8.9	36
Johnson, Dall.	50	423	8.5	38
Brown, Wash.	57	452	7.9	43
Metcalf, St.L.	14	108	7.7	23

KO RETURN LEADERS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Montgomery, Phil.	23	619	26.9	99
Chapman, N.O.	15	385	25.7	92
Brown, Wash.	34	852	25.1	46
Payton, Det.	22	548	24.9	98
Johnson, Dall.	22	536	24.4	64
Baschnagel, Chi.	23	557	24.2	84
Metcalf, St.L.	32	772	24.1	51
Brinson, Dall.	17	409	24.1	41
Hofer, S.F.	36	863	24.0	48

TEAM TOTAL OFFENSE	Tot. Yds.	Yds. Rush	Yds. Pass	Avg.PG
Dallas	4812	2369	2443	343.7
Chicago	4655	2811	1844	332.5
Los Angeles	4591	2575	2016	327.9
St. Louis	4533	2042	2491	323.8
Minnesota	4189	1821	2368	299.2
Washington	3615	1752	1863	258.2
New Orleans	3597	2024	1573	256.9
San Francisco	3597	2089	1508	256.9
Philadelphia	3578	1722	1856	255.6
New York Giants	3284	1897	1387	234.6
Atlanta	3246	1890	1356	231.9
Detroit	3224	1706	1518	230.3
Green Bay	3212	1464	1748	229.4
Tampa Bay	2693	1424	1269	192.4

TEAM RUSH OFFENSE	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	Avg.PG
Chicago	599	2811	4.7	200.8
Los Angeles	621	2575	4.1	183.9
Dallas	564	2369	4.2	169.2
San Francisco	565	2089	3.7	149.2
St. Louis	507	2042	4.0	145.9
New Orleans	484	2024	4.2	144.6
New York Giants	548	1897	3.5	135.5
Atlanta	582	1890	3.2	135.0
Minnesota	510	1821	3.6	130.1
Washington	502	1752	3.5	125.1
Philadelphia	484	1722	3.6	123.0
Detroit	479	1706	3.6	121.9
Green Bay	469	1464	3.1	104.6
Tampa Bay	465	1424	3.1	101.7

TEAM PASS OFF.	Atts.	Com.	Pct.	Int.	Avg. Yds.	QB Sacked
St. Louis	365	194	53.2	21	177.9	15
Dallas	372	215	57.8	10	174.5	33
Minnesota	388	228	58.8	22	169.1	35
Los Angeles	339	182	53.7	11	144.0	25
Washington	383	183	47.8	16	133.1	52
Philadelphia	349	167	47.9	21	132.6	47
Chicago	305	161	52.8	18	131.7	26
Green Bay	327	164	50.2	21	124.9	32
New Orleans	321	166	51.7	21	112.4	46
Detroit	384	191	49.7	16	108.4	54
San Francisco	277	136	49.1	17	107.7	36
New York Giants	311	134	43.1	22	99.1	46
Atlanta	297	140	47.1	16	96.9	40
Tampa Bay	321	131	40.8	30	90.6	48

TEAM TOTAL DEFENSE	Tot. Yds.	Yds. Rush	Yds. Pass	Avg.PG
Dallas	3213	1651	1562	229.5
Atlanta	3242	1858	1384	231.6
San Francisco	3457	1869	1588	246.9
Los Angeles	3575	1698	1877	255.4
Detroit	3772	1905	1867	269.4
Philadelphia	3793	1917	1876	270.9
Minnesota	3799	2218	1581	271.4
New York Giants	3870	1773	2097	276.4
Tampa Bay	3926	2031	1895	280.4
Green Bay	4036	2317	1719	288.3
Washington	4110	2039	2071	293.6
Chicago	4285	2158	2127	306.1
St. Louis	4504	2237	2267	321.7
New Orleans	4622	2729	1893	330.1

TEAM RUSH DEFENSE	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	Avg.PG
Dallas	457	1651	3.6	117.9
Los Angeles	462	1698	3.7	121.3
New York Giants	519	1773	3.42	126.6
Atlanta	504	1858	3.7	132.7
San Francisco	551	1869	3.39	133.5
Detroit	521	1905	3.7	136.1
Philadelphia	521	1917	3.7	136.9
Tampa Bay	581	2031	3.5	145.1
Washington	537	2039	3.8	145.6
Chicago	544	2158	4.0	154.1
Minnesota	548	2218	4.0	158.4
St. Louis	514	2237	4.4	159.8
Green Bay	583	2317	4.0	165.5
New Orleans	623	2729	4.4	194.9

TEAM PASS DEF.	Atts.	Com.	Pct.	Int.	Avg. Yds.PG	QB Sacks
Atlanta	320	141	44.1	26	98.9	42
Dallas	371	154	41.5	21	111.6	53
Minnesota	312	149	47.8	16	112.9	30
San Francisco	270	139	51.5	8	113.4	42
Green Bay	319	186	58.3	13	122.8	37
Detroit	302	161	53.3	19	133.4	32
Philadelphia	358	183	51.1	21	134.0	47
Los Angeles	370	180	48.6	25	134.1	36
New Orleans	290	154	53.1	10	135.2	27
Tampa Bay	337	190	56.4	23	135.4	30
Washington	380	167	43.9	21	147.9	45
New York Giants	328	185	56.4	12	149.8	37
Chicago	377	182	48.3	18	151.9	27
St. Louis	375	198	52.8	19	161.9	25

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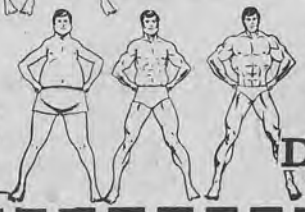

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1947	Steve Van Buren	Philadelphia	1,008
1949	Steve Van Buren	Philadelphia	1,146
	Tony Canadeo	Green Bay	1,052
1953	Joe Perry	San Francisco	1,018
1954	Joe Perry	San Francisco	1,049
1956	Rick Casares	Chicago	1,126
1958	Jim Brown	Cleveland	1,527
1959	Jim Brown	Cleveland	1,329
	J.D. Smith	San Francisco	1,036
1960	Jim Brown	Cleveland	1,257
	Jim Taylor	Green Bay	1,101
	John David Crow	St. Louis	1,071
1961	Jim Brown	Cleveland	1,408
	Jim Taylor	Green Bay	1,307
1962	Jim Taylor	Green Bay	1,474
	John Henry Johnson	Pittsburgh	1,141
	Cookie Gilchrist	Buffalo	1,096
	Abner Haynes	Dallas Texans	1,049
	Dick Bass	Los Angeles	1,033
	Charlie Tolar	Houston	1,012
1963	Jim Brown	Cleveland	1,863
	Clem Daniels	Oakland	1,099
	Jim Taylor	Green Bay	1,018
	Paul Lowe	San Diego	1,010
1964	Jim Brown	Cleveland	1,446
	Jim Taylor	Green Bay	1,169
	John Henry Johnson	Pittsburgh	1,048
1965	Jim Brown	Cleveland	1,544
	Paul Lowe	San Diego	1,121
1966	Jim Nance	Boston	1,458
	Gale Sayers	Chicago	1,231
	Leroy Kelly	Cleveland	1,141
	Dick Bass	Los Angeles	1,090
1967	Jim Nance	Boston	1,216
	Leroy Kelly	Cleveland	1,205
	Hoyle Granger	Houston	1,194
	Mike Garret	Kansas City	1,087
1968	Leroy Kelly	Cleveland	1,239
	Paul Robinson	Cincinnati	1,023
1969	Gale Sayers	Chicago	1,032
1970	Larry Brown	Washington	1,125
	Ron Johnson	New York Giants	1,027
1971	Floyd Little	Denver	1,133
	John Brockington	Green Bay	1,105
	Larry Csonka	Miami	1,051
	Steve Owens	Detroit	1,035
	Willie Ellison	Los Angeles	1,000
1972	O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	1,251
	Larry Brown	Washington	1,216
	Ron Johnson	New York Giants	1,182
	Larry Csonka	Miami	1,117
	Marv Hubbard	Oakland	1,100
	Franco Harris	Pittsburgh	1,055
	Calvin Hill	Dallas	1,036
	Mike Garrett	San Diego	1,031
	John Brockington	Green Bay	1,027
	Eugene Morris	Miami	1,000
1973	O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	2,003
	John Brockington	Green Bay	1,144
	Calvin Hill	Dallas	1,142
	Larry McCutcheon	Los Angeles	1,097
	Larry Csonka	Miami	1,003
1974	Otis Armstrong	Denver	1,407
	Don Woods	San Diego	1,162
	O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	1,125
	Lawrence McCutcheon	Los Angeles	1,109
	Franco Harris	Pittsburgh	1,006
1975	O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	1,817
	Franco Harris	Pittsburgh	1,246
	Lydell Mitchell	Baltimore	1,193
	Jim Otis	St. Louis	1,076
	Chuck Foreman	Minnesota	1,070
	Greg Pruitt	Cleveland	1,067
	John Riggins	New York Jets	1,005
	Dave Hampton	Atlanta	1,002
1976	O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	1,503
	Walter Payton	Chicago	1,390
	Delvin Williams	San Francisco	1,203
	Lydell Mitchell	Baltimore	1,200
	Lawrence McCutcheon	Los Angeles	1,168
	Chuck Foreman	Minnesota	1,155
	Franco Harris	Pittsburgh	1,128
	Mike Thomas	Washington	1,101
	Rocky Bleier	Pittsburgh	1,036
	Mark Van Eeghen	Oakland	1,012
	Otis Armstrong	Denver	1,008
	Greg Pruitt	Cleveland	1,000
1977	Walter Payton	Chicago	1,852
	Mark van Eeghen	Oakland	1,273
	Lawrence McCutcheon	Los Angeles	1,238
	Franco Harris	Pittsburgh	1,162
	Lydell Mitchell	Baltimore	1,159
	Chuck Foreman	Minnesota	1,112
	Greg Pruitt	Cleveland	1,086
	Sam Cunningham	New England	1,015
	Tony Dorsett	Dallas	1,007

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MOST TOTAL POINTS IN LIFETIME:
George Blanda 2,002. Chicago Bears 1949-58, Baltimore 1950, Houston 1960-66, Oakland 1967-75. 9 TDs, 943 PATs, 335 FGs.
Lou Groza 1,349. Cleveland 1950-59, 1961-67, 1 TD, 641 PATs, 234 FGs.
Fred Cox 1,365, Minnesota 1963-77; 519 PATs, 282 FGs.

MOST TOTAL POINTS ONE SEASON:
Paul Hornung 176 Green Bay 1960, 15 TDs, 41 PATs, 15 FGs.
Gino Cappelletti 155, Boston 1964, 7 TDs, 38 PATs, 25 FGs.
Gino Cappelletti 147, Boston 1961, 8 TDs, 49 PATs, 17 FGs.

MOST POINTS IN ROOKIE SEASON:
Gale Sayers 132, Chicago 1965, 22 TDs.
Doak Walker 128, Detroit 1950, 11 TDs, 38 PATs, 8 FGs.
Cookie Gilchrist 128, Buffalo 1962, 15 TDs, 14 PATs, 8 FGs.
Chester Marcol 128, Green Bay 1972, 29 PATs, 33 FGs.
Gene Mingo 123, Denver 1960, 6 TDs, 33 PATs, 18 FGs.

MOST POINTS SCORED IN ONE GAME:
Ernie Nevers 40, Chicago Cardinals vs. Chicago Bears, Nov. 28, 1929, 6 TDs, 4 PATs.
William (Dub) Jones 36, Cleveland vs. Chicago Bears, Nov. 25, 1941, 6 TDs.
Gale Sayers 36, Chicago vs. San Francisco, Dec. 12, 1965, 6 TDs.
Paul Hornung 33, Green Bay vs. Baltimore, Oct. 8, 1961, 4 TDs, 6 PATs, 1 FG.

MOST TOUCHDOWNS IN ONE SEASON:
O.J. (Orange Juice) Simpson 23, Buffalo 1975, 16 run, 7 pass.
Chuck Foreman 22, Minnesota 1975, 13 run, 9 pass.
Gale Sayers 22, Chicago 1965, 14 run, 6 pass, 1 punt ret, 1 KO ret.
Jim Brown 21, Cleveland 1965, 17 run, 4 pass.

MOST TOUCHDOWNS IN ROOKIE SEASON:
Gale Sayers 22, Chicago 1965, 14 run, 6 pass, 1 punt ret, 1 ko ret.
Cookie Gilchrist 15, Buffalo 1962, 13 run, 2 pass.
Billy Howton 13, Green Bay 1952, 13 pass.
Bob Hayes 13, Dallas 1965, 1 run, 12 pass.
Tony Dorsett 13, Dallas 1977, 12 run, 1 pass.

MOST PATs IN ONE SEASON:
George Blanda 64, Houston 1961.
Danny Villanueva 56, Dallas 1966.
George Blanda 56, Oakland 1967.

MOST FIELD GOALS IN ONE SEASON:
Jim Turner 34, New York Jets 1968.
Chester Marcol 33, Green Bay 1972.
Jim Turner 32, New York Jets 1969.

MOST RUSHING ATTEMPTS ONE SEASON:
Walter Payton 339, Chicago 1977.
O.J. (Orange Juice) Simpson 332, Buffalo 1973.
O.J. (Orange Juice) Simpson 329, Buffalo 1975.

MOST YARDS RUSHING IN ONE SEASON:
O.J. (Orange Juice) Simpson 2,003, Buffalo 1973.
Jim Brown 1,863, Cleveland 1963.
Walter Payton 1,852, Chicago 1977.

Jim Turner
Kicker
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BEST AVG RUSHING GAIN, ONE SEASON:
Beattie Feathers 9.94, Chicago Bears 1934. 101 atts, 1,004 yds.
Bobby Douglass 6.87, Chicago 1972, 141 atts, 968 yds.
Dan Towler 6.78, Los Angeles 1951, 126 atts, 854 yds.

MOST TOUCHDOWNS RUSHING ONE SEASON:
Jim Taylor 19, Green Bay 1962.
Jim Brown 17, Cleveland 1958 & 1965.
Lenny Moore 16, Baltimore 1964.
Leroy Kelly 16, Cleveland 1968.
O.J. (Orange Juice) Simpson 16, Buffalo 1975.

MOST PASSES ATTEMPTED ONE SEASON:
C.A. (Sonny) Jurgensen 508, Washington 1967.
George Blanda 505, Houston 1964.
Joe Namath 491, New York Jets 1967.

MOST PASSES COMPLETED ONE SEASON:
C.A. (Sonny) Jurgensen 288, Washington 1967.
C.A. (Sonny) Jurgensen 274, Washington 1969.
Francis Tarkenton 273, Minnesota 1975.
Roman Gabriel 270, Philadelphia 1973.

MOST PASSING YARDS IN ONE SEASON:
Joe Namath 4,007, New York Jets 1967.
C.A. (Sonny) Jurgensen 3,747, Washington 1967.
C.A. (Sonny) Jurgensen 3,723, Philadelphia 1961.

MOST TD PASSES IN ONE SEASON:
George Blanda 36, Houston 1961.
Y.A. Tittle 36, New York Giants, 1963.
Daryle Lamonica 34, Oakland 1969.

FEWEST PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED ONE SEASON:
One: Joe Ferguson, Buffalo 1976.
Three: Gary Wood, New York Giants 1964; Bryan (Bart) Starr, Green Bay 1966.
Four: Sammy Baugh, Washington 1945; Harry Gilmer, Detroit 1955; Charlie Conerly, New York Giants 1959; Bryan (Bart) Starr, Green Bay 1964; Roger Staubach, Dallas 1971; Len Dawson, Kansas City 1975.

MOST PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED IN ONE SEASON:
George Blanda 42, Houston 1962.
Frank Tripucka 34, Denver 1960.
John Hadl 32, San Diego 1968.

MOST PASS RECEPTIONS IN ONE SEASON:
Charlie Hennigan 101, Houston 1964.
Lionel Taylor 100, Denver 1961.
Johnny Morris 93, Chicago 1964.

MOST YARDS GAINED RECEIVING IN ONE SEASON:
Charlie Hennigan 1,746, Houston 1961.
Lance Alworth 1,602, San Diego 1965.
Charlie Hennigan 1,546, Houston 1964.

MOST TOUCHDOWNS RECEIVING IN ONE SEASON:
Don Hutson 17, Green Bay 1942.
Elroy Hirsch 17, Los Angeles 1951.
Bill Groman 17, Houston 1961.
Art Powell 16, Oakland 1963.
Cloyce Box 15, Detroit 1962.
Ulmo (Sonny) Randle 15, St. Louis 1960.

MOST INTERCEPTIONS BY IN ONE SEASON:
Richard (Night Train) Lane 14, Los Angeles 1952.
Dan Sandifer 13, Washington 1948.
Orban (Spec) Sanders 13, New York Yanks 1950.

MOST INTERCEPTION YDS IN ONE SEASON:
Charley McNeil 349, San Diego 1961.
Don Doll 301, Detroit 1949.
Richard (Night Train) Lane 298, Los Angeles 1952.

BEST PUNTING AVERAGE ONE SEASON:
(Qualifiers with at least 35 punts)
Sammy Baugh 51.4, Washington 1940.
R. Yale Lary 48.9, Detroit 1963.
Sammy Baugh 48.7, Washington 1941.

LONGEST PUNT:
Steve O'Neal, 98 yds, New York Jets vs. Denver, Sept. 21, 1969.
Don Chandler 90 yds., Green Bay vs. San Francisco, Oct. 10, 1965.
Bob Waterfield 88 yds., Los Angeles vs. Green Bay, Oct. 17, 1948.

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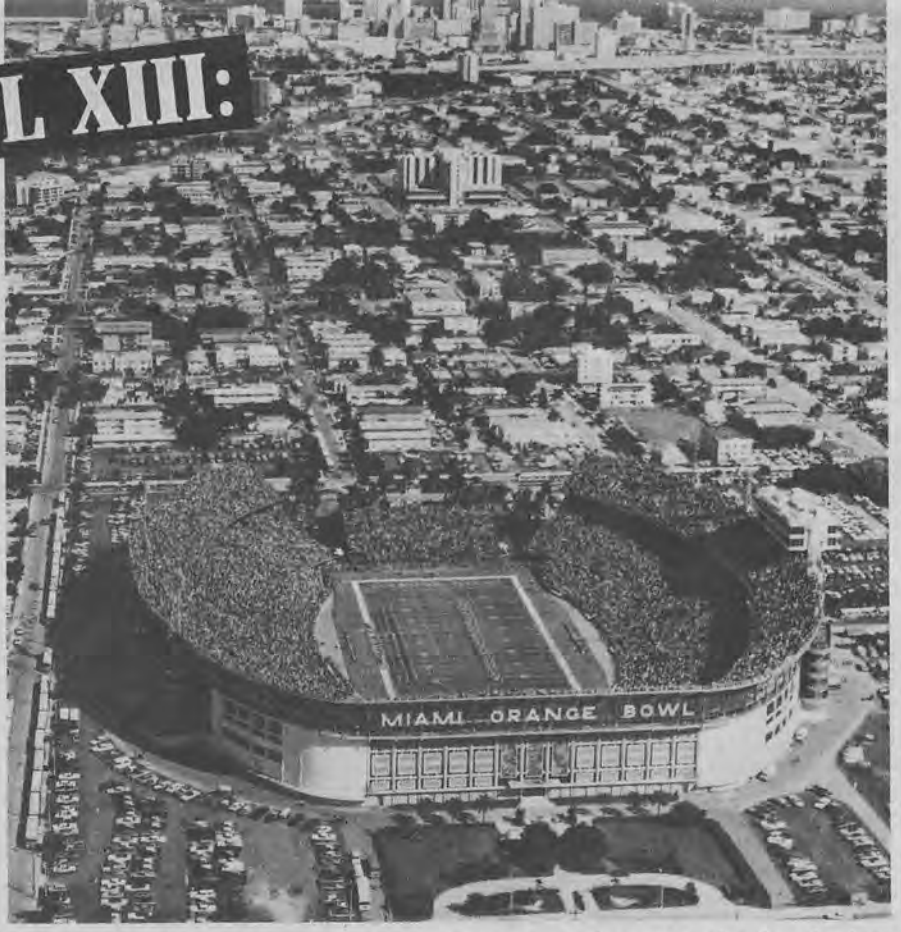
SUPER BOWL XIII:

The Road to Miami



By NORMAN MacLEAN

The National Football League has a new Game Plan for 1978. It encompasses a 16 game regular season schedule and a brand new playoff arrangement with ten teams qualifying for the post-season madness.

Each Conference will send two wild card teams plus the three division winners into the playoffs. That means the Division winners can rest a week while waiting for the wild card teams to play their way into the round of eight finalists.

The regular season will start two weeks earlier than in the past, on September 3, 1978, with two pre-season games being removed and only four being scheduled. The full season is extended by only a week and Super Bowl XIII will take place in Miami's Orange Bowl on January 21, 1979.

The NFL has also revised its method of determining future schedules, so that the weaker teams will play easier cards than the winners. All teams play round robin home-and-home cards within their divisions, including Tampa Bay in the NFC Central and Seattle in the AFC West. This round robin gives each team in a five-team division eight games and a team in a four team division six games. Teams in the four-team division brings its total to eight games by playing one game against each of the two fifth-place teams in the other division of the Conference.

This, of course, adds four games to the schedule of each fifth place team, bringing its total number of games to 12. To complete the 16 game card for fifth place teams, the two in each conference will play home and home against each other and then play one game against the two fifth place finishers in the other conference.

In order to bring their total games to 12, teams finishing first through fourth will acquire four more games by playing each of the teams that finish first through fourth in a division of the other Conference. These divisional matchups will be rotated each year to provide an annual look at new opponents.

In conclusion, the 16-game schedule of the first through fourth place teams will be completed by the scheduling of the first-place teams against the other two first-place teams in their conference and against the fourth-place teams in the other divisions, and vice versa, fourth against first. The second and third-place teams in each conference will also match up in a similar manner.

Commissioner Pete Rozelle did his thing when he completed negotiations which will give the play for pay circuit $576 million over a four year period when contracts with all three major networks were signed by the NFL.

True, NBC-TV has agreed to pay $80 million for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Production costs will raise that figure to $125 million. In addition there is the reported 10 million the same network paid for the rights to Gone With the Wind, the Civil War movie. But, for a long term commitment, Rozelle has done the best for his teams ever done by any sports commissioner anywhere.

The money share amongst the three networks is roughly the same—with each having more games in 1978 because of format and the expanded schedule.

ABC-TV, concentrating on prime time audiences has upped its payments from $18 million to an annually whopping $46 million for the four-year deal, but in addition to the regular 15 Monday nights and the final Saturday night of the regular season, ABC will televise four added contests in 1978 on either Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday nights. This new ABC prime time deal is called the mini package by the NFL. It will expand from four dates to six in 1979, 1980, and 1981.

CBS will continue to televise the regional games of the 14 teams in the NFC on Sunday afternoons, about 13 of which go coast to coast. The rights fee is $48 million each year for about 102 games.

NBC-TV's deal is very similar to the CBS deal except it costs less, about $44 million a year. Although the AFC has the better teams at present, the market size of these teams, mostly survivors of the American Football League, is quite a bit smaller than the NFC teams serviced by CBS. CBS gets a split in New York and has the second, third and fourth largest markets with NFC teams in Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia.

The rights to televise the Super Bowl will continue to alternate between CBS and NBC with the fee rising in

1979 to $6 million for the one-shot contest.

Rozelle has managed to up the annual income to his 28 teams from the 1977 figure of $53.8 million to about $138 million, a remarkable 133 percent increase. That should keep even the Green Bay Packers operating. Each team's annual share of the revenue will rise from $2.1 million to about $4.9 million. It will mark the first time in the history of sports that the revenue from TV will exceed that from the live gate.

In comparison the contract that ABC-TV has with collegiate football over the next four years is for $41 million. In addition, the NFL had pledged $120 million to the NFL Players Association's pension fund in accordance with the five year peace pact signed before the 1977 season.

The success of the Monday night prime time games televised by ABC helped raise the ante—although many think that Rozelle is in the "middle of a tightrope act" in order to raise revenues without saturating the TV market.

On the field there is concern that TV viewers and the season ticket holdees in the stadium may get bored with the current rate of non offense the NFL, and particularly the staid NFC, offers for many games.

Touchdowns were down from 910 during the 1976 season to 815 in 1977, and the number of points scored dropped from 7,508 to 6,733. This is a decrease of more than ten percent in each case and is cause for concern. The average NFL game in 1977 had 34.4 points scored, down from the 1976 average of 38.2

"We are on the horns of a dilemma," admits Rozelle. "The public wants scoring—and we are also trying to be fair to all."

Translated that means there was pressure from most teams for more scoring. But when the Competition Committee, consisting of coaches and general managers meet, some of the grand plans to open up the game go out the window.

Eventually, the NFL did adopt four main rule changes which will aid the attack.

They are: 1—Allowing offensive linemen a little more freedom in the use of hands and arms against pass rushers. 2—Limiting the amount of contact (called chucking) a defender can use against a potential pass receiver. 3—Adding a extra side judge to increase the officials' coverage of downfield pass areas and prohibit intimidation

Randy White
Defensive Tackle
Cowboys

tactics perpetrated against receivers, as in the past. 4—Permitting a receiver to tip a pass to a teammate without it having to be touched by the defense, as in the past.

Potential receivers who are used to being hit once in the first five yards past the line of scrimmage, and then subject to further punishment down field, will be happy to learn that only the first chuck in the five-yard zone just past the line of scrimmage is permitted under the 1978 code.

"What we're hopeful of," said Rozelle, "is to change the philosophy of NFL coaches if the extra pass blocking allows them to have receivers open downfield. We want the ball in the air more often."

Meanwhile, as the 1978 season opener nears, no team stands bigger than the Dallas Cowboys, the one-sided winner of the Super Bowl in New Orleans last January.

Despite the lingering suspicion that the NFC is by far the lesser of the NFL's two conferences, there is no doubt that the Cowboys are the best team in the league. Gil Brandt and Tex Schramm, the front office team, added the final dimension needed in 1977 when they somehow managed to trade with Seattle for super fast rookie running back Tony Dorsett. Dorsett did for Dallas what Duane Thomas had done once before—enable Roger Staubach and Company to win the Super Bowl.

Since 1966 Dallas has won seven divisional titles, made the playoffs 11 of 12 times, turned in 12 straight years without a losing season—made the Super Bowl four times and won in 1972 and 1978. In 1977 they won 15 of the 17 games they played—and coach Tom Landry still feels that his present team hasn't reached maturity.

"The 1972 people performed on a more even keel than we did last year," opined Landry, the only coach Dallas has ever had. "I think 1978 could be an outstanding year. Many of our young players still haven't reached their potential. Tony Dorsett has been playing by feel. He should be a great star once he gets the experience."

Dorsett, the NFL rookie of the year didn't start until the tenth game of the year as the veteran Preston Pearson hung onto his spot because he knew Landry's tricky offensive system better. But, when Dorsett finally got in, he managed to wind up with more than 1,000 yards rushing.

(Continued on Page 116)

THE LONG VIEW

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	NATIONAL CONFERENCE
EAST	**EAST**
Miami Dolphins	Dallas Cowboys
Baltimore Colts	Washington Redskins
New England Patriots	Philadelphia Eagles
New York Jets	St. Louis Cardinals
Buffalo Bills	New York Giants
CENTRAL	**CENTRAL**
Houston Oilers	Minnesota Vikings
Cincinnati Bengals	Chicago Bears
Pittsburgh Steelers	Detroit Lions
Cleveland Browns	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
	Green Bay Packers
WEST	
Oakland Raiders	**WEST**
Denver Broncos	Los Angeles Rams
San Diego Chargers	San Francisco Forty Niners
Seattle Seahawks	Atlanta Falcons
Kansas City Chiefs	New Orleans Saints
WILD CARD TEAMS:	**WILD CARD TEAMS:**
Baltimore Colts	Washington Redskins
Denver Broncos	Chicago Bears

SUPER BOWL XIII: Dallas Cowboys versus Miami Dolphins

Lyle Alzado
Defensive End
Denver Broncos

The Legend of Lyle Alzado

By Bob Gutkowski

Bob Gutkowski

In most of the U.S., the top pro football stars are offensive players. You've got Bert Jones at Baltimore, Franco Harris in Pittsburgh, O.J. Simpson, late of the Buffalo Bills, now with the '49ers, but out here in Denver, Colorado the name of the game is "DEEEEEE-Fense", in the form of a defensive unit known as the Orange Crush, ostensibly a highly developed and tuned 3-4-4 defensive strategy.

And of the primary keys in making that Orange Crush defense so potent is a former refugee from Spanish Harlem . . . one Lyle Alzado. Alzado is the type of player that gets everyone juiced up. Be you fan or a media person, be you friend or foe, you know that Lyle is going to give you a boat load of thrills on any given afternoon.

Out here in the high, dry prairies the old and new Denverites have little to do on autumn afternoons. You can ski, camp in the high country or watch the Broncos and 95% of the people here are tuned into the Broncos somehow, some way. And most of the talk is about the defense, because let's face it the offense even with a reborn Craig Morton is pathetic to say the least. The passing is and probably will always be just that—passable. The receivers are a notch above adequate and the offensive line comes out of Neusteter's bargain basement. But surprisingly, it was good enough to give the Broncs a 12-2 mark, an AFC Western Division Championship, its first in the franchise's 18 year history and a shot at the Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl, which turned out to be a disaster.

Make no mistake about it. The atmosphere in Denver is changing. While the air pollution here gets worse, the ambience around the Logan St. camp gets better. And lest anyone forget, unless there is some wholesale changes offensively, the Broncos this year will have to again rely on Alzado and the four linebackers who make the Orange Crush what it is. Lyle Alzado anchors the three down linemen in a defense that is primarily geared for release of the linebackers, not linemen. Nose Tackle Rubin Carter apologizes to no one for his prowess and left end Barney Chavous is as good as anyone as his spot.

Lyle Alzado DE
Paul Smith DT
Denver Broncos

At 6-3, 250 lbs. Alzado is a walking neutron bomb. His black beard envelopes his mid-eastern features to a point where he resembles one of those ancient Greek Gods, although in reality he is of Hispanic-Hebrew descent. Most afficionadoes of defensive players, including Coach Stan Jones, feel that Lyle drives himself too hard. What they don't know is that Lyle is an extremely intense person; emotionally, psychologically and physically. Having had the privilege of working with Lyle in both charitable and broadcast endeavors in Denver, I know first hand the intensity with which this man approaches everything he does.

Jones put it another way, "Lyle drives himself so hard that we have a tough time keeping him on schedule, he always seems to be racing ahead," commented Jones, who feels that Lyle at 29, has yet to reach his potential. "And he is overcritical of himself. He thinks he should have three or four sacks and 10 unassisted tackles every game and if he doesn't, he feels he is not doing his job."

While sacks are important, stopping the running back is too and that is where Lyle excels. But it is his presence that has opposing QB's and RB's thinking about trying someone else. "I think what I try to do out there is intimidate my opponents. If they don't come at me, then they have to try Barney or Rubin and if they are lucky enough to evade us, well just look at the linebackers we've got. Gradishar, Jackson, Swenson and Rizzo and I don't think they've reached their potential yet either," says the smiling Alzado, "Hey, the Crush plays for keepsies, we are not the patsy team of the past. We've got Red (Miller) and Stan (Jones) and a lot of dedicated players and coaches and we'll be back even stronger this year."

Now granted that is tough talk but Lyle in 12 games proved out. He had five sacks and 71 unassisted tackles in 12 games. And wound up with 80 unassisted tackles or first hits and 7 sacks for the regular season, which ranked him third behind LB's Gradishar and Swenson. In post-season play, he got 14 tackles, 5 assists and 2 sacks with the 2 sacks coming in the Super Bowl.

To be sure, there is almost nothing leisurely about Lyle, whether you are with him or merely observing him. He is in perpetual motion even when standing still, a throwback, he says, to the days when he was a kid trying to survive on the grubby streets of Spanish Harlem. Now at 29, Lyle took the time to survey and explain that part of his life which when coupled with the Broncos' success, already has made him the most easily recognized Broncos player in and out of Denver.

"I think what I especially remember is the numbing cold, day after day. I had to keep moving just to keep warm. I remember the hunger, the cold damp kitchen with practically no food. I remember the anger and maybe even some fear, especially after my father took off on us," explained Lyle, with sort of a far-away look in those big, brown eyes. "My father was a struggling pro boxer, then he was involved with a paint business, and then a bar. He was a heavy drinker and street fighter. He tried very hard to do right and succeed but time after time he got knocked down. And I guess one day he just could not take it anymore and decided to leave," Lyle continued, "but I'm sure deep down inside he was a good man. I know he tried to take care of us, but maybe he just didn't know how."

Lyle was only a high school sophomore when that happened. They had to move to an apartment where Lyle described the conditions as horrid, and so with five kids Lyle's mother Martha went to work in a small flower store for about $50-$60 dollars a week. "We were very poor, and at times it was so bad my high school coach bought me lunch out of his pocket. Basically I think it was the grinding circumstances that made all us fight and get involved with really bad scenes," Lyle continued." We were all hungry, and fighting just seemed to be a way of releasing a lot of energy. Many times we'd fight, stab a guy, beat him up bad and we'd wonder later why we did it. There was no real reason for me to fight other than for survival and pride. We had nothing else to fight for."

Lyle was arrested several times in Harlem for stealing cars, breaking and entering. Later he worked over people in some Long Island City bars. So fighting became Lyle's "raison d'etre" and he'd spend many a night in the Nassau County jail. An old friend of Lyle's, Marc Lyons said that "although Lyle never drank, never smoked a joint, he always liked to fight".

Lyle's feeling is that the environment sort of shored up his strength. "I was a bouncer in my father's bar in Inwood. You pick up a pipe or knife if you needed to persuade somebody and use it if he didn't move out", Lyle explained. Even Lyle's wife Sharon still can't believe some of the stories. "I'd see a scar and ask Lyle about it," she noted, "and he'd say it came as a result of a stabbing and he'd do it in such a nonchalant manner."

But Lyle survived all of that by being involved in athletics. His friend Lyons amplified, "I wanted to play for the Yankees. My love was always baseball, but Lyle wanted to play for the football Giants. He was a defensive end on the Lawrence High School team, ran the 100 in 9.9 and won 27 straight bouts in the Police Athletic League."

"I remember being thrown out of almost every high school football game because I fought but I don't think it was until my senior year that I really saw what was happening. Some of my friends like Rich Mollo and Sal Ciampi were doing well in the same environment and they kept encouraging me, then I got involved with lifting weights in Mollo's father's garage. We'd keep records and have a celebration any time one of us broke the records." Lyle laughed, recalling those times," but I guess in a lot of ways that was the turning point for me because those guys really cared about me. I still really care about those guys now but I don't get a chance to see them."

(Continued on Page 114)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

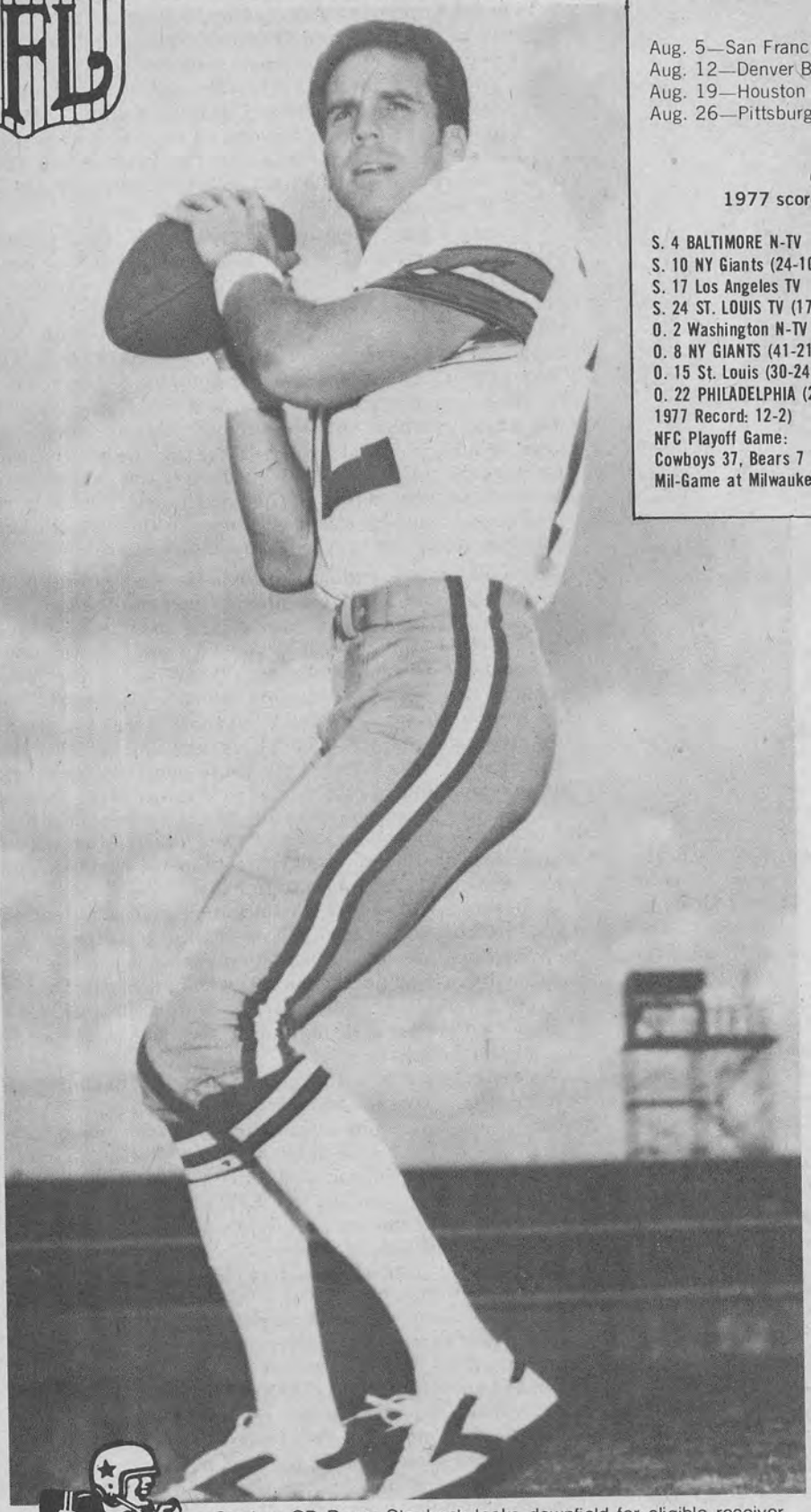
1978 COWBOYS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—San Francisco 49ers at Dallas (N)
Aug. 12—Denver Broncos at Denver (TV)
Aug. 19—Houston Oilers at Dallas (N)
Aug. 26—Pittsburgh Steelers at Dallas (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 4 BALTIMORE N-TV
S. 10 NY Giants (24-10)
S. 17 Los Angeles TV
S. 24 ST. LOUIS TV (17-24)
O. 2 Washington N-TV (14-7)
O. 8 NY GIANTS (41-21)
O. 15 St. Louis (30-24)
O. 22 PHILADELPHIA (24-14)
1977 Record: 12-2)
NFC Playoff Game:
Cowboys 37, Bears 7
Mil-Game at Milwaukee
O. 26 MINNESOTA N-TV (16-10 OT)
N. 5 Miami TV
N. 12 Green Bay-Mil
N. 19 NEW ORLEANS
N. 23 WASHINGTON TV (34-16)
D. 3 NEW ENGLAND TV
D. 10 Philadelphia (16-10)
D. 17 NY Jets
NFC Title Game:
Cowboys 23, Vikings 6
Super Bowl XII:
Cowboys 27, Broncos 10



Cowboy QB Roger Staubach looks downfield for eligible receiver.

Tony Dorsett
Running Back

Golden Richards
Wide Receiver

DALLAS COWBOYS

Don't Look Now, But That's a Dynasty in Dallas

The Dallas Cowboys became the fourth team in National Football League history to win a second Super Bowl title (Green Bay, Miami and Pittsburgh were the others) when the Cowboys defeated the Denver Broncos for the World Championship in Super Bowl XII at New Orleans, 27-10, January 15. Along the way, Dallas continued its long skein of winning seasons and post-season playoff appearances.

Last year's 12-2 regular season mark boosted the Cowboys into the playoffs for the 11th time in the past 12 years and made an even dozen winning seasons in succession for Coach Tom Landry's team.

Landry observed recently that being in a position to be the first team to capture three Super Bowls is incentive enough for the 1978 Cowboys, noting that the real "stress" facing the club this year will be "maintaining the intensity it takes to win again and being physically prepared for a longer (16 games) '78 season." Landry added:

"In returning to a level that won it for us last year, stress will come from the problem of complacency. It can occur as an unconscious, relaxation-type thing which seems to take place on a team after you win. This is what we'll have to fight to return to the Super Bowl.

"Our initial thrust will be to work as hard as we did last year in training camp, knowing that our off-season conditioning can have us ready to pick up where we left off.

"The schedule is going to be tougher, no doubt, and it will be tougher for all contending teams because the good teams will be playing each other more. Since the new schedule has put teams on a more-equal basis, I think it will have a greater affect than most people think.

"Depth is going to be very important this year because of the extra games. I don't believe teams now can play through the year without having some injury damage to their team somewhere along the way. So hopefully, we'll be able to back up our regulars with good, strong replacements and this also will be one of our goals in training camp.

"The biggest concern in 1978 is the offensive line because Ralph Neely has retired and Rayfield Wright, who we had hoped to have back from knee surgery by mid-season in '77, never really came back strong enough to be a factor.

"If Rayfield comes through for us again and returns to form, then we really don't have as big a problem. Losing two of our first string tackles, ones who have played for a lot of years, would be critical.

"Coming off our Super Bowl win, another major goal for the Cowboys in '78 must be in relationship to the number of times we've been to the Super Bowl and to the number of times we've won. Being the first team to win three Super Bowls becomes a number one challenge.

"We're coming off a year that was super for us. Going into 1977 we didn't really feel we were going to be as strong as we showed in the playoffs or in the Super Bowl,

DALLAS'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1.	BETHEA, Larry	DE	Michigan State
2.	CHRISTENSEN, Todd	RB	Brigham Young
3.	HUDGENS, Dave	DT	Oklahoma
4.	BLACKWELL, Alois	RB	Houston
5.	ROSEN, Rich	G	Syracuse
6.	RANDOLPH, Harold	LB	East Carolina
7.	RANDALL, Tom	DT-DE	Iowa State
8.	BUTLER, Homer	WR	UCLA
9.	WILLIAMS, Russ	DB	Tennessee
10.	TOMASETTI, Barry	G	Iowa
11.	THURMAN, Dennis	DB	Southern California
12.	WASHBURN, Lee	G	Montana State

Drew Pearson
Wide Receiver

Thomas Henderson
Linebacker

Butch Johnson
Wide Receiver

mainly because of the number of key changes that had to be made prior to the start of the year.

"The young players who stepped into the defense were especially important to our success. They have the ability to get better and they must continue to do so if we're to stay strong and in contention.

"The things we achieved most were on defense a year ago with the addition of Thomas Henderson and Bob Breunig, and the change of Randy White into the line, and with Aaron Kyle coming along. These four players all were plusses and they may be plusses for a number of years if they continue to improve.

"I felt our defensive team reached its potential at just the right time. And I think that's what carried us through the Super Bowl."

A LOOK AT THE EASTERN DIVISION

"I think there's doubt in some areas because of coaching and other changes in St. Louis and Washington, " said Landry.

"I don't feel Washington will change as a team very drastically. I think they're going to be under the same George Allen-type mold they were before, because of Jack Pardee's background.

"The big change will come in St. Louis. It can either be good or bad. Their morale was very poor at the end of last year, but if they accept their new coaching staff, they'll be a factor in the East again because they have good football players.

"Philadelphia is probably the most improved team. Last year they had a good defense, and were very close to winning a number of games. With just a little help, I think they'll progress faster than the New York Giants. But we'll just have to wait and see what happens over the season." ●

1977 COWBOY STATISTICS

	Cowboys	Opps.
Total Points Scored	345	212
Total First Downs	272	205
Third Down Efficiency	42.2	33.3
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2369-118	1651-88
Passes Att-Completed	372-215	370-154
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2443-136	1562-94
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	33-246	53-429
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	21-10.9	10-18.4
Punts-Average Yards	61-8.9	36-7.8
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	61-8.9	36-7.8
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	44-24.3	71-21.8
Fumbles-Ball Lost	26-14	22-10
Penalties-Yards	106-865	78-725

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Herrera	0	39-41	18-29	93
Dorsett	13	0	0	78
Pearson, P.	5	0	0	30
Newhouse	4	0	0	24
DuPree	3	0	0	18
Richards	3	0	0	18
Saldi	3	0	0	18
Staubach	3	0	0	18
Pearson, D.	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Dorsett	208	1007	4.8	84	12
Newhouse	180	721	4.0	29	3
Pearson, P.	89	341	3.8	22	1
Staubach	51	171	3.4	33	3
Dennison	12	60	5.0	17	1

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Staubach	361	210	2620	58.2	9	67	18
White	10	4	35	40.0	1	12	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Pearson, D.	48	870	18.1	67	2
Pearson, P.	46	535	11.6	36	4
Dorsett	29	273	9.4	23	1
DuPree	28	347	12.4	23	3
Richards	17	225	13.2	50	3
Newhouse	16	106	6.6	41	1
Johnson	12	135	11.3	22	1
Saldi	11	108	9.8	23	2

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Harris	5	7	1.4	7	0
Henderson	3	79	26.3	79	1
Waters	3	11	3.7	6	0
Washington	2	32	16.0	21	0
Renfro	2	28	14.0	25	0
Hughes	2	19	9.5	11	0

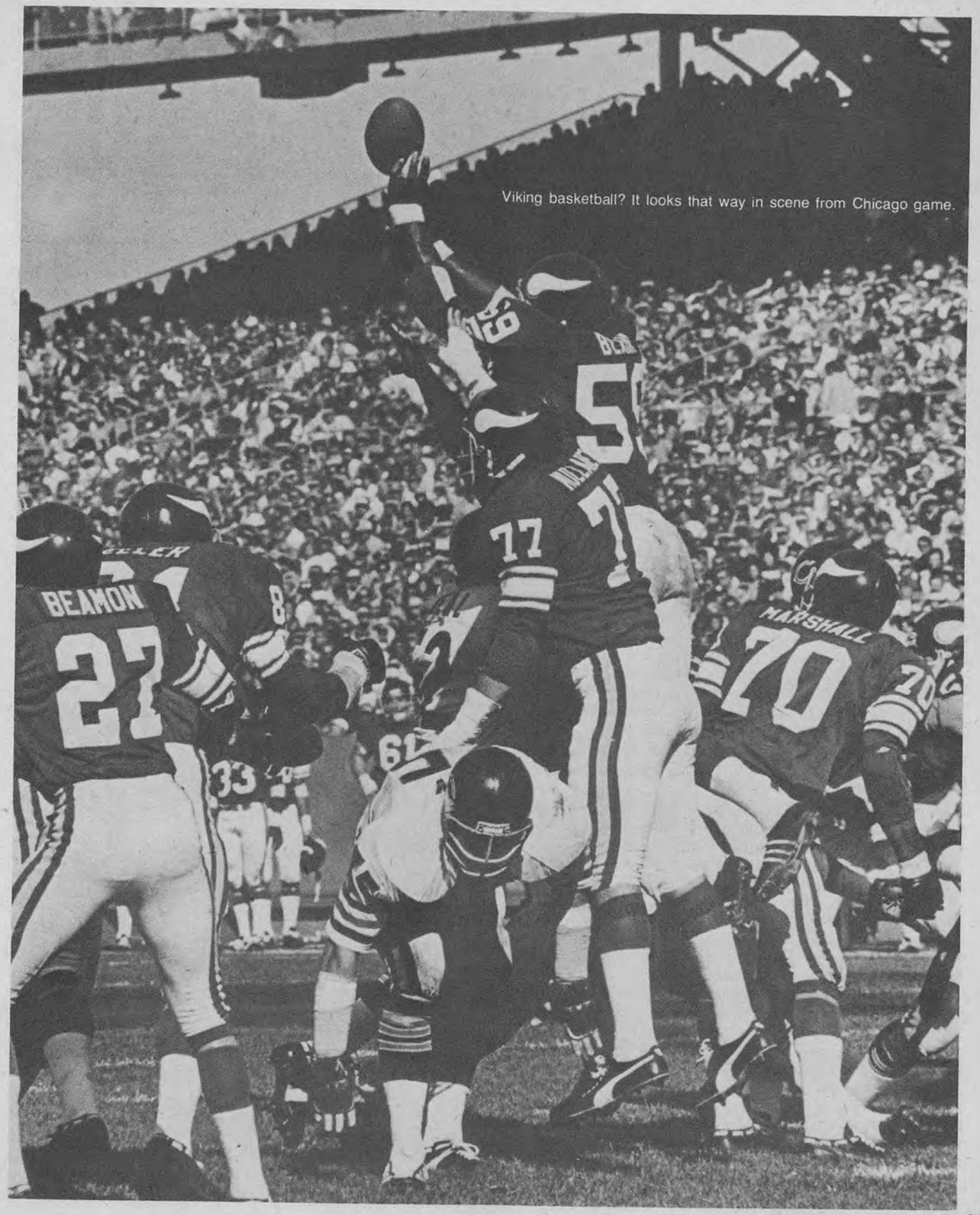
Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
White, D.	80	3171	39.6	57	1

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Johnson	50	15	423	8.5	38	0
Hill	10	1	124	12.4	29	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Johnson	22	536	24.4	64	0
Brinson	17	409	24.1	41	0

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Again, the Vikings Have to Be Reckoned With



Viking basketball? It looks that way in scene from Chicago game.

Bud Grant
Head Coach

1978 VIKINGS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Washington Redskins at Bloomington, Minn. (N)
Aug. 12—Kansas City Chiefs at Kansas City (N)
Aug. 18—Miami Dolphins at Miami Orange Bowl (N-TV)
Aug. 26—Buffalo Bills at Bloomington, Minn. (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 New Orleans
S. 11 DENVER N-TV
S. 17 TAMPA BAY
S. 25 Chicago N-TV (7-10)
O. 1 Tampa Bay (9-3)
O. 8 Seattle
O. 15 LOS ANGELES TV (3-35)
O. 22 GREEN BAY (19-7)
1977 Record: 9-5
NFC Playoff Game:
Vikings 14, Rams 7

O. 26 Dallas N-TV
N. 5 DETROIT (14-7)
N. 12 CHICAGO TV (22-16 OT)
N. 19 SAN DIEGO
N. 26 Green Bay (13-6)
D. 3 PHILADELPHIA
D. 9 Detroit TV (30-21)
D. 17 Oakland TV (13-35)
NFC Title Game:
Cowboys 23, Vikings 6

The Vikings managed to get into the playoffs last year without Fran (The Scram) Tarkenton and there is some question whether they can get there with him this time. The Vikes have won the NFL Central Division nine of the last 10 years. Bud Grant doesn't seem to think there's cause for alarm because so many of his men are over 30. After all, they've always won before. . .

Tarkenton is now 37 and 1978 would be his 18th NFL year. He holds all the NFL passing records, all the major ones, anyway. He was completing his passes at a barely-believable rate of 60.1% when he broke his leg in the ninth game of the year at Cincinnati. Is he ready for more punishment? Are the talents even slightly diminished? Stay tuned. . .

When Fran went down, Bob Lee and Tommy Kramer were available and they still are. Tarkenton threw for 1,734 yards, including nine touchdowns, in 1977. Lee completed 42 of 72 attempts for four touchdowns. Kramer, a rookie in '77, completed 52.6% of his 57 attempts, for 425 yards and five touchdowns. That did wonders for his future in Minnesota, that and the fact that he connected for three of those touchdowns in the final 12 minutes of a 28-27 sweater with the Forty-Niners, a cliffhanger that helped the Vikes skin into the playoffs.

The Vikings throw to some tough cookies, guys like Chuck Foreman, who caught 38 passes, three of them for touchdowns, last year. But he was behind Ahmad Rashad, recipient of 51 passes. That was two less than a personal high he set for the Vikes in '76. They were good for 681 yards and two touchdowns. Sammy White, the other wide receiver, averaged 15.5 yards on 41 catches. He scored nine touchdowns, one of them from 69 yards out. Stu Voigt remains one of the least appreciated top tight ends in pro football.

The top running back for Minnesota—and almost everybody else—is 6-2 207-pound Chuck Foreman, who carries the ball about three times as much as anybody else for Minnesota. He ran for 1112 yards last year, scoring nine touchdowns. Six were by legwork, three more were on pass receptions. Brent McClanahan can take some of the heat off the main offensive thrust, particularly if his knee is okay again. McClanahan carried 95 times before he was injured. Robert Miller is in reserve, along with Sammy Johnson, Manfred Moore and Mark Kellar.

The strongest man in football, according to the glue ad, holds forth at one guard spot. That, of course, is Ed White. Charles Goodrun will play the other side. Goodrun can play both guard and tackle, and has done so for Bud Grant. Mick Tingelhoff has been the Viking center since 1962, and sees no reason to quit now. The U.S.C. tackles for Minnesota, of course, are 11-year veteran Ron Yary and two-year starter Steve Riley. Wes Hamilton is in reserve and so is Dennis Swilley, the sole rookie on the first two offensive platoons last year. He's 6-3, 241 and quick.

The front four of the Vikings has a combined NFL experience of 51 years and is 139 years old. Ends Carl Eller

Sammy Johnson
Running Back

FRAN TARKENTON
10 QB 6-0 190

SAMMY WHITE
85 WR 5-11 189

MINNESOTA'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. HOLLOWAY, Randy	DE	Pittsburgh
2. TURNER, John	DB	Miami (Fla.)
3. WALTON, Whip	LB	San Diego State
4. HOUGH, Jim	C	Utah State
8. WOOD, Mike	K	S.E. Missouri
9. DEUTSCH, Mike	P	Colorado State
10. SHAW, Hughie	RB	Texas A&I
11. HARRIS, Ron	RB	Colorado State
12. MORROW, Jeff	T	Minnesota

and Jim Marshall are 36 and 40 and tackles Doug Sutherland and Alan Page are 30 and 33. Around Minnesota, lots of people think they're not getting older, they're just getting better. Be that as it may, Mark Mullaney, Joe Jackson and James White are being groomed—but there is no rush, or at least there has been no huge hurry. Eller and Marshall remain leaders who command respect and knock a lot of people down. Eller led the front four in scoring with a two-point safety against Tampa Bay in 1977.

Backing up that rugged line are some younger oldtimers, like Matt Blair, Jeff Siemon and Fred McNeill, along with Wally Hilgenberg, who starts less often now that he's entering his 15th NFL year. They've been banging people around for quite a few years but there is room for more. So along comes Scott Studwell, one of two rookies on the first two defensive platoons of 1977. They don't play Studwell into the ground—he is in relief of Siemon, after all. But he comes from Illinois, where, it is said, he made 'em remember another Illinoisian middle linebacker of another earlier era, fella named Dick Butkus.

Nate Wright and Bobby Bryant, the men in the corners, are the men you have to think about if you're going to pass on the Vikes. They were the leading purple-shirted interceptors last year. Wright made three interceptions and Bryant picked off four. Both play hurt and they've been doing it for a decade and more with very little sign of slippage. Jeff Wright, at strong safety, and Paul Krause, at free safety, also have years of experience behind them. Tim Hannon, the other rookie, played occasionally at free safety behind Krause in 1977. The other deep back reserves are Phil Wise, Nate Allen and Joe Blahak.

Fred Cox is the second leading all time scorer in NFL history, behind George Blanda. He now has 1,366 points. Fifty of them came last year, his 16th in the NFL. He was 25 for 28 on PAT efforts and eight for 17 on field goals. The punter is Neil Clabo, who kicked 83 times for 3302 yards last year. His average, a healthy 39.8, was undoubtedly helped by a 69-yard boot. He put 19 out of bounds inside the 20 and only 10 rolled in for touchbacks. Manfred Moore is the leading punt and kickoff return specialist. He ran 47 punts back for a 5.9-yard average and 24 kickoffs at 21.8 yards apiece.

1977 VIKINGS STATISTICS

	Vikings	Opps.
Total Points Scored	231	227
Total First Downs	244	212
Third Down Efficiency	39.9	34.7
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1821-110	2222-119
Passes Att-Completed	388-228	310-149
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2368-125	1581-80
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	35-324	30-274
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	16-6.8	22-8.5
Punts-Average Yards	83-39.8	92-37.1
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	58-6.0	42-12.1
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	45-18.5	48-20.8
Fumbles-Ball Lost	36-24	22-12
Penalties-Yards	75-556	82-688

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
White, S.	9	0	0	54
Foreman	9	0	0	54
Cox	0	25-28	8-17	50
McClanahan	3	0	0	18
Johnson	2	0	0	12
Tucker	2	0	0	12
Rashad	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Foreman	270	1112	4.1	51	6
McClanahan	95	324	3.4	18	1
Johnson	55	217	3.9	26	2
Miller	46	152	3.3	14	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Tarkenton	258	155	1734	60.1	14	59	9
Lee	72	42	522	58.3	4	48	4
Kramer	57	30	425	52.6	4	69	5

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Rashad	51	681	13.4	48	2
White, S.	41	758	18.5	69	9
Foreman	38	348	9.2	31	3
McClanahan	34	276	8.1	23	2
Miller	27	246	9.1	25	0
Voight	20	212	10.6	24	1
Tucker	9	109	12.1	29	2

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Bryant	4	44	11.0	41	0
Wright, N.	3	0	00.0	--	0
Krause	2	24	12.0	24	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Clabo	83	3302	39.8	69	0

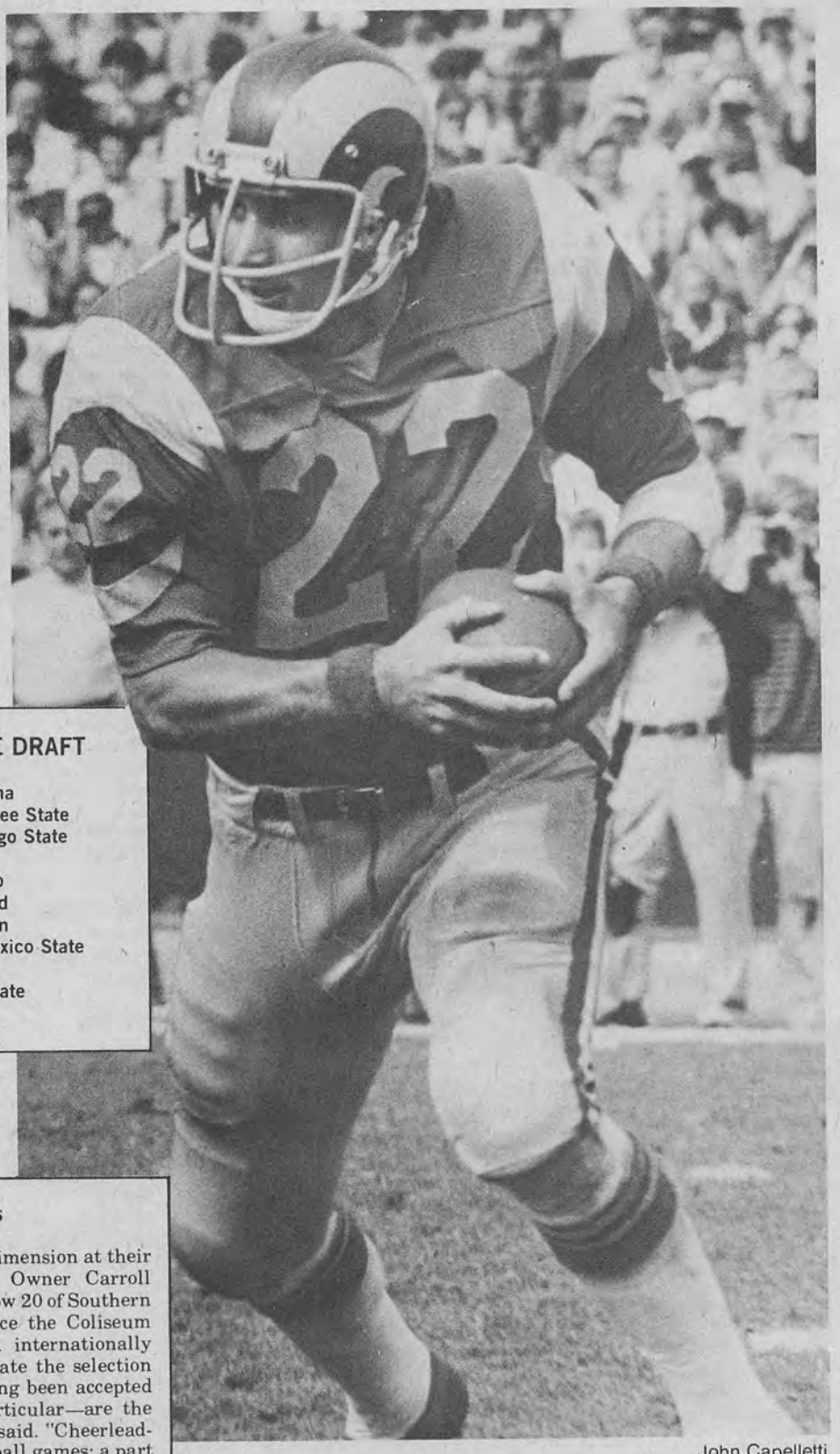
Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Moore	47	2	277	5.9	28	0
Grim	11	4	69	6.3	33	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Moore	24	523	21.8	48	0
White, S.	7	113	16.1	36	0
McClanahan	4	90	22.5	32	0
Miller	5	66	13.2	20	0
Kellar	3	37	12.3	16	0

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Will George Allen Bring Back the Good Ol' Days?

George Allen
Head Coach



John Capelletti
Running Back

LOS ANGELES'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1.	PEACOCK, Elvis	RB	Oklahoma
2.	JOHNSON, Stan	DT	Tennessee State
2.	SMITH, Ronnie	WR	San Diego State
3.	CORRAL, Frank	P	UCLA
3.	WHITE, Leon	C	Colorado
4.	MANGES, Mark	QB	Maryland
7.	DOSS, Reggie	DE	Hampton
9.	ANDERSON, Andre	DE	New Mexico State
10.	PEAL, Charles	T	Indiana
11.	HOSTETLER, Ron	LB	Penn State
12.	COPPENS, Gus	T	UCLA

Rah-Rahs for the Rams

For 1978, the Rams will have an added dimension at their Coliseum home games — cheerleaders! Owner Carroll Rosenbloom made the decision that will allow 20 of Southern California's most beautiful women to grace the Coliseum floor during Ram games, and has hired internationally known promoter David Mirisch to coordinate the selection and promotion of the cheerleaders. "It's long been accepted that California girls—Los Angeles in particular—are the most beautiful in the world," Rosenbloom said. "Cheerleaders have become a part of professional football games; a part of the entire spectacle of the National Football League." Mirisch, who is credited with the discover of Farrah Fawcett, sees the Rams cheerleaders as a group that will easily gain national recognition. And for Mr. Rosenbloom's information, Atlanta, Georgia, is still under the impression that it has the world's most beautiful women.

For all of those who now expect to see Dick Bass trading in his KMPC microphone for a pair of football shoes and the Ram trainers dispensing Geritol on the bench instead of Gatorade, let George Allen take the stand:

"It's a misconception that I have to have older players,"

1978 RAMS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—New England Patriots at Los Angeles Coliseum (N)
Aug. 12—San Diego Chargers at Los Angeles Coliseum (N)
Aug. 17—Seattle Seahawks at Seattle Kingdome (N)
Aug. 26—Oakland Raiders at Oakland (N-TV)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Philadelphia (20-0)
S. 10 ATLANTA (23-7)
S. 17 DALLAS TV
S. 24 Houston
O. 1 New Orleans (26-27)
O. 8 SAN FRANCISCO TV (34-14)
O. 15 Minnesota TV (35-3)
O. 22 NEW ORLEANS (14-7)
1977 Record: 10-4

O. 30 Atlanta N-TV (16-17)
N. 5 TAMPA BAY (31-0)
N. 12 PITTSBURGH TV
N. 19 San Francisco TV (23-10)
N. 26 Cleveland (9-0)
D. 3 NY Giants
D. 11 CINCINNATI N-TV
D. 17 GREEN BAY (24-6)
NFC Playoff Game:
Vikings 14, Rams 7

said the new Rams coach who is returning to Los Angeles where he built five consecutive winning teams in 1966-70. "Sure, we had older players when we were here before and our 'Over the Hill Gang' in Washington received a lot of publicity, but those two situations were different. The teams were 'down' and we did what we had to do to win."

Now Allen was warming up. "The key is to do what you have to do to win. It doesn't matter whether the players are old or young or middle-aged. The most important thing this year is for everyone to be pulling from the same end of the rope, pulling together."

Allen is convinced that with everyone pulling together, "if things break right, if we don't have any damaging injuries," the 1978 Rams can be a Super Bowl contender. That, of course, is the goal of Carroll Rosenbloom, the club's owner and president, who brought Allen back after the latter had turned in seven highly successful years as the head man of the Redskins.

Whereas Allen was forced to build from scratch in his earlier tour of duty with the Rams, and also with the Redskins, he recognizes that he has a solid nucleus this time around. "Carroll Rosenbloom, Steve Rosenbloom and Don Klosterman have done a fine job of building this team into a winner," he says. With five consecutive division titles behind them, the Rams have certainly provided winning football for their fans, but Rosenbloom has one more objective besides that. Remembering that the team is in the entertainment business, Rosenbloom keeps urging his coaches to employ a more exciting offense.

Allen responds by listing a new-look offense as one of his objectives for '78. "We're going to run out of multiple sets and our goals are to be more explosive and less predictable," said the coach whose reputation has been the architect of excellent defenses in compiling an impressive 116-47-5 (.706) record that ranks him tenth in NFL history for lifetime victories and fourth among active coaches.

Another of Allen's objectives is to improve the special teams. A trademark of both his Rams and Redskins has been the enthusiastic, ball-hawking play of his special teams. It has helped instill a certain spirit and camaraderie that permeated the entire squad, and what's more, it usually contributed to a couple of wins a season.

A third goal is to improve the play of the defensive unit. "The Rams have a good defense, no question about that," says Allen, but I think it can be even better." The Rams in 1977 ranked third in the conference on defense, allowing an average of 327.9 yards per game. Permitting just 121.3 yards per game on the ground, they were second in the NFC vs. rushing plays. They were eighth against the pass, allowing 134.1 yards per game while intercepting 25 passes and sacking opposing quarterbacks 36 times. The most impressive defensive statistic, however, was in the area of fewest points allowed where the Rams finished second to Atlanta by giving up only 146.

Four members of the club's starting defensive unit, including Jack Youngblood, Larry Brooks, Isiah Robertson and Monte Jackson were selected to the Pro Bowl, although an injury forced Jackson to miss the game. In addition, six members of the Rams offense were selected to play in the classic, including Lawrence McCutcheon, Harold Jackson, Pat Haden, Tom Mack, Doug France and Rich Saul. These men, and others, helped the Rams to a 10-4 season in 1977 to win a fifth straight NFC West title before losing to the Vikings in the mud-bath playoff game, 14-7.

Rosenbloom is hoping that Allen can inspire the Rams beyond the point of winning the division and perhaps a playoff game. What the Ram owner covets most is a second Super Bowl ring (he already wears one from his days in Baltimore). In Allen, Rosenbloom is getting a coach who knows what it is like to go to the Super Bowl. His 1972 Redskin team that finished 11-3 went all the way to the Super Bowl before bowing to Miami. Allen was named Coach of the Year following that season, just one of several times he has won such an honor.

His reputation has been that of a man who knows how to take a losing franchise from the cellar to the top by means of shrewd trading, an emphasis on experience and defense. But here, again, Allen feels he will adjust to the situation. "We won't use that policy (of trading draft choices for players). We won't have to. This is the first time I've ever had a coaching job where I didn't have to rebuild."

Another example of how Allen adjusts in order "to do what you have to do to win" lies in the changes he made at Washington. Known as a conservative coach in his first tour of duty with the Rams, Allen loosened things up with the Redskins. "I suspect I was conservative when I previously coached the Rams," he concedes. "I had to be. We didn't have great team speed. But I approached things a little differently in Washington. The Redskins led the NFL in passing in 1974 and the NFC in passing in 1975. You certainly couldn't characterize the Redskins as being conservative." The offense that Allen and his assistants inherit rolled up 327.9 yards a game in '77, third best in the NFC. It was the second most productive rushing offense in the conference and the fourth best passing.

Even though he has had but two NFL seasons in which to display his passing arm, there is little doubt that Pat Haden is a quarterback of major league caliber. In fact he has been among the league's passing leaders, despite his youth (25) and his smallish sature (5-11). Last year he came within a week of winning the NFL passing title, finishing second to Dallas' Roger Staubach, and in his rookie season his 94.7 rating would have won the NFL passing title except that he did not have enough attempts to qualify. In regular season games started, Haden shows a record of 13-3-1 over the one and one-half years he has been the regular.

To insure no shortage of QBs on the Ram roster, Roman Gabriel—of former L-A fame—and ex-Packer Carlos Brown have joined Vince Ferragamo as backups for Haden who, perhaps, doesn't really need all that support.

The return of a healthy Ron Jessie should bolster the receiving department. The acrobatic former Kansas University star was injured in the third game of the season last year and he was lost for the duration after undergoing knee surgery. Thus the load fell on veteran Harold Jackson, who made his 10th NFL season one of his best, catching 48 passes, tied for third high in the NFC, for 666 yards and six scores. Since his return to the Rams in 1973 from Philadelphia, where he led the league in receiving on two occasions, Jackson has topped the Rams in that department each season. The 5-10 Jackson is not the biggest target in football, but he remains one of the

quickest. If anyone can beat him on the Ram roster, it might be Billy Waddy, the 1977 rookie who took Jessie's place in the starting lineup. Waddy came on to start 11 games, catching 23 passes for 355 yards and one touchdown.

The term quality most describes Lawrence McCutcheon, the six-year veteran who holds the Rams career records for most rushing yards (5,523) and most attempts (1,244) and the single season marks for both yards (1,238 last year) and attempts (294 last year). McCutcheon's slashing style has been a trademark of the Rams offense during the last five years in which he has gained more than 1,000 yards on four of those occasions to go with a 911 output in 1975. Including playoff games, McCutcheon has now ripped off 100 yards or more in 25 games. One of the reasons has been the blocking support of John Cappelletti, the former Heisman Trophy winner, who last year also found time to run for 598 yards in 178 carries. The Cappelletti-McCutcheon backfield combination was also active in the pass receiving department with Cappy grabbing 28, third high on the club, and Lawrence getting 25. The breakaway threat in '77 was rookie Wendell Tyler of UCLA, who raced for 317 yards, averaged 5.2, including a 44-yard touchdown scamper against the Vikings.

With three of their number selected to play in the Pro Bowl Game, the Rams offensive linemen were well represented in that post-season classic. Heading the list was guard Tom Mack, who made his 10th Pro Bowl appearance in 12 years. He was joined by center Rich Saul, who was playing in his second Pro Bowl, and tackle Doug France, who was in his first. Mac, the co-captain of the team, has been a catalyst since his rookie season, 1966. While Mack has played the left side, his running mate on the right side the last two seasons has been young, strong Dennis Harrah until he suffered a knee injury that required surgery in the middle of 1977.

The Rams are hoping once again that their defense in 1978 will register the same kinds of performances that it has for so many consecutive seasons. Last year for example, the Rams allowed only 146 points, second fewest in the NFL, and much of the credit goes to the defensive line which recorded 36 QB sacks and was second in the conference in defensing the rush. Balance was a key in the success of the club's pass rush as each member of the starting unit had a hand in getting to the passer. All-Pro end Jack Youngblood led the way with eight sacks, followed closely by right end Fred Dryer with seven and right tackle Larry Brooks with 6½.

A combination of proven veterans and several promising youngsters should make for interesting battles for the starting linebacker positions in 1978. Leading the group is All-Pro Isiah (Butch) Robertson, the right side linebacker who, most critics agree, should be able to do most anything he wants on a football field. Robertson, who recorded 54 tackles and a red-dogging four sacks last year, lines up beside middle backer Jack Reynolds, known by friends and enemies alike as "Hacksaw." Reynolds, the regular at the position since 1973, missed the first half of last season because of a contract dispute, but he came back to start the last six games and the Rams won five of them.

It appears as if the Rams secondary is into one of the finest units in the NFL. After a league-leading interception total of 32 in 1976, the Rams came right back with 25 more last year, including six by free safety Bill Simpson to tie for second place in the conference. Right behind Simpson were the two cornerbacks, Monte Jackson and Pat Thomas, who had five apiece. Jackson, who led the NFL with 10 the year before, was named All-Pro for the second straight year. His running mate at corner in 1976, Rod Perry, was bothered most of the season by a broken thumb, and he gave way to Thomas early in the campaign.

The Rams went with two rookies last year in place kicker Rafael Septien and punter Glen Walker. Septien converted on 18 of 30 field goal attempts and 32 of 35 extra point tries for 86 points, second in kick scoring in the conference and third in the NFL. He was consistent inside the 40, converting 16 of 18, but outside the 40 he was only two of 12. His longest was 45 yards. Walker, from USC, averaged 35.2 on 73 punts with a long of 56. He kicked eight into the end zone and dropped 11 inside the opponents 20. ●

1977 RAMS STATISTICS

	Rams	Opps.
Total Points Scored	302	146
Total First Downs	270	203
Third Down Efficiency	43.9	29.4
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2575-139	1698-90
Passes Att-Completed	339-182	370-180
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2016-112	1877-94
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	25-237	36-359
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	25-18.8	11-12.4
Punts-Average Yards	73-35.2	88-39.1
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	51-7.1	29-4.0
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	33-21.4	53-21.8
Fumbles-Ball Lost	32-18	26-16
Penalties-Yards	89-869	94-825

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Septient	0	32-35	18-30	86
McCutcheon	9	0	0	54
Cappelletti	6	0	0	36
Jackson, H.	6	0	0	36
Tyler	3	0	0	36
Nelson	3	0	0	18
Haden	2	0	0	12
Jodat	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
McCutcheon	294	1238	4.2	48	7
Cappelletti	178	598	3.4	15	5
Tyler	61	317	5.2	44	3
Phillips	37	183	4.9	25	1
Haden	29	106	3.7	23	2

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Haden	216	122	1551	56.5	6	58	11
Namath	107	50	606	46.7	5	42	3
Ferragamo	15	9	83	60.0	0	17	2

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Jackson, H.	48	666	13.9	58	6
Nelson	31	401	12.9	46	3
Cappelletti	28	228	8.1	25	1
McCutcheon	25	274	11.0	30	2
Waddy	23	355	15.4	42	1
Jessie	9	139	15.4	21	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Simpson	6	157	26.2	42	0
Thomas	5	97	19.4	30	0
Jackson, M.	5	73	14.6	33	0
Elmendorf	2	51	25.5	27	0
Youngblood, Jim	2	27	13.5	25	1
Brudzinski	2	24	12.0	23	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Walker	73	2568	35.2	56	0

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Waddy	31	5	219	7.1	48	0
Bryant	20	1	141	7.1	26	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Tyler	24	523	21.8	37	0
Jodat	5	129	25.8	38	0
Bryant	2	35	17.5	26	0

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Pardee Brings Some New Ideas from Chicago

Washington safety Jake Scott zeros in on Viking RB Chuck Foreman.

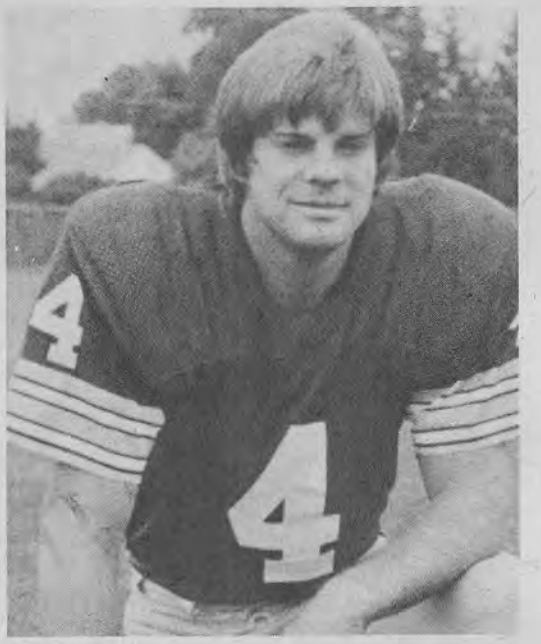
Jack Pardee
Head Coach

George Allen went over the hill to Los Angeles, leaving behind the mature remnants of his 9-5 Redskins of 1977 and no top draft choices. The guys he left behind have proved themselves—over, and over, and over, again. It remains what incoming coach Jack Pardee can do to have some of the lustre. After all, those vanishing Americans are all a year older, and, even if they did win almost two out of three games, they did lose twice to the Giants.

The good old boys of Washington in 1977 had 21 players on the roster who were 30 or older, and 15 of them were starters. George wouldn't be averse to picking up a couple of them, say Billy Kilmer and Chris Hanburger, for his Rams. On the other hand, Pardee has let it be known that he'd just as soon keep some of the golden oldies. "I'm not prejudiced against old football players, just bad ones," he has said. "These guys played well last year, and I don't see why they can't again next season."

The Skins of 1977 scored only four points on 15

Charley Taylor
Wide Receiver



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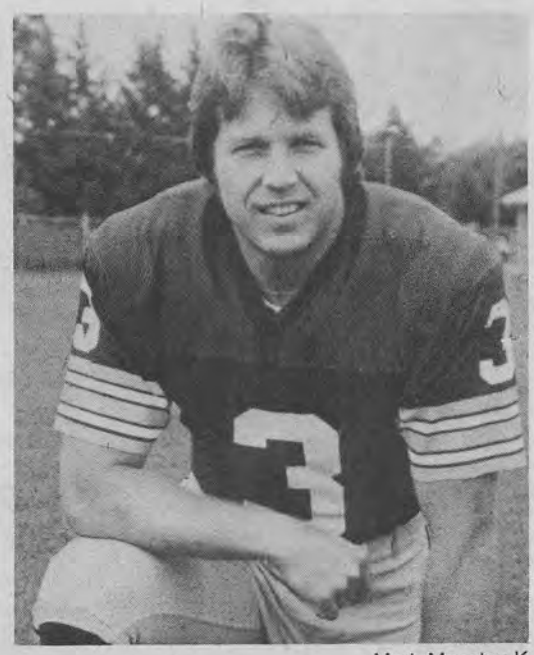


Mark Moseley K

touchdowns (four rushing). Part of the trouble was injury. Fullback John Riggins was one of the injured. He carried only 68 times, for 203 yards, before he was hurt. Pardee hopes he's okay again and intends to let him carry the ball more. Riggins was mostly a blocker when he was available last year. Kilmer, the perpetual, threw for 1187 yards and eight touchdowns last year. He's 39, and ready for more. He threw 201 passes, completing 49.3%. His backup, Joe Theismann, passed 182 times and completed 46.2%. He's younger, much younger, than Billy and still can get out of his own way—and the enemies' way—afoot. Kilmer carried the ball 10 times last year, usually in panic. Theismann averaged 5.1 yards on 29 carries and even scored a touchdown. Kilmer was intercepted seven times, Theismann nine.

The running corps of the Redskins lists some great old names, like Calvin Hill, Jim Kiick and Riggins, along with some young dudes with promise, like Mike Thomas, Clarence Harmon and Eddie Moss. Thomas ran the ball twice as often as any of the grand old names or anybody else on the Skins last year, gaining 806 yards on 228 carries. He also caught 28 passes. He was rookie of the year 1975 and seems to be developing. Clarence Harmon carried 94 times and caught a few passes. Jean Fugett, the tight end from Amherst, caught a few more . . . 36. That made him the prime target for Redskin passers. He averaged a wowzie 17.5 yards a catch and made five touchdons. Danny (Lightning) Buggs, a wide receiver, caught 26 and Frank Grant, another, caught 34. Charley Taylor, who is 36 now, slipped to 14—one a game.

On the offensive front of tackles Tim Stokes and George Starke, guards Ron Saul and Terry Hermeling and center Len Hauss, only Stokes is under 30. But they all played for

1978 REDSKINS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Minnesota Vikings at Bloomington, Minn. (N)
Aug. 11—Green Bay Packers at Washington (N)
Aug. 18—Baltimore Colts at Baltimore (N)
Aug. 25—Atlanta Falcons at Washington (N)

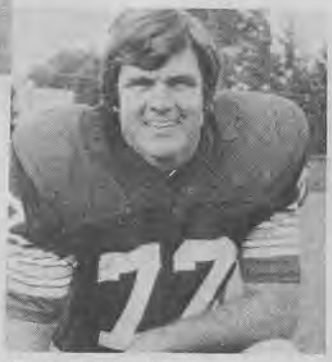
REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 New England	O. 29 SAN FRANCISCO
S. 10 PHILADELPHIA (23-17)	N. 6 Baltimore N-TV (3-10)
S. 17 St. Louis (26-20)	N. 12 NY GIANTS (6-17)
S. 24 NY JETS	N. 19 ST. LOUIS (24-14)
O. 2 DALLAS N-TV (7-14)	N. 23 Dallas TV (16-34)
O. 8 Detroit	D. 3 MIAMI
O. 15 Philadelphia (17-14)	D. 10 Atlanta (10-6)
O. 22 NY Giants (17-20)	D. 16 CHICAGO TV
1977 Record: 9-5	

WASHINGTON'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

6. GREEN, Tony	RB	Florida
8. LEE, Walker	WR	North Carolina
8. HOVER, Don	LB	Washington State
9. HURLEY, John	QB	Santa Clara
10. HERTENSTEIN, Scott	DE	Azusa Pacific
11. WILLIAMS, Mike	DB	Texas A&M
12. MC CABE, Steve	G	Bowdoin

Ron McDole DE



Diron Talbert DT

George Allen last year, and started for him. They blocked for Billy Kilmer and Joe Theismann and Mike Thomas last year, to name a few, will, most of them, probably be doing it again this year. They were the front that lost to the Giants, all right, but don't forget they also beat the Rams and played toughies with the Lions and Cowboys. So maybe they're not entirely over the hill—yet.

One reason for some of the better moments last fall was a sturdy defense, one that held all fores to a 33% third down efficiency average. The front four, if Pardee chooses to keep it a four rather than switch to the popular "new" 3-4 defense, is replete with geriatric cases. End Ron McDole, for instance, is 39. Karl Lorsch has been the other end and Dave Butz, the 6'7" tackle, still frightens quarterbacks. The other tackle, Diron Talbert, remains firm. Don't forget that the Redskins sacked the quarterback 52 times last year. That's a heap of heaps. That strong pass rush also helps the deep sacks. With the new rules of what you can do to pass receivers this year, the front four and the linebacking three will have a good deal to do with delaying potential receivers with one good whack and the Skin linebackers are competant. Right side backer Chris Hanburger is 37 and the caller of defensive signals. He tells the other defenders where to go but often leads the way himself. For most of his career, he has led the Skins in tackles. Harold McLinton plays the middle and Brad Dusek, a onetime running back, is on the other side. He made an interception last year as did Mike Curtis, another ancient, who filled in for Hanburger once in a while. Safety man Ken Houston led the way with five interceptions last year. Cornerback Joe Lavendar made four, as did Gerard Williams, who plays the other corner. Old Jake Scott helped himself to three. A testimonial to the efficiency of the secondary is that all Redskin opponents completed just 43.9% of passes attempted.

Placekicker Mark Mosely led the team in scoring with 82 points. He was 19 for 19 on conversion attempts and eight out of nine on field goals attempted from inside the 40. He missed a few from farther out, and was 21 or 37 on field goals. Punter Mike Bragg kicked 91 times. Only three rolled into the end zone for touchbacks and 29 rolled out of bounds inside the 20. Eddie Brown did all the punt returning and practically all the kickoff returning last year. He returned 34 kickoffs for an average of 25.1 yards, very good for field position, and returned 57 punts for 452 yards, or 7.9 apiece. He made eight fair catches. ●

1977 REDSKINS STATISTICS

	Redskins	Opps.
Total Points Scored	196	189
Total First Downs	227	234
Third Down Efficiency	34.2	33.0
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1752-79	2039-112
Passes Att-Completed	383-183	380-167
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1863-124	2071-102
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	52-421	45-359
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	21-9.0	16-18.5
Punts-Average Yards	91-38.5	94-37.0
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	57-7.9	50-4.6
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	47-23.1	54-19.1
Fumbles-Ball Lost	26-14	27-12
Penalties-Yards	94-802	100-857

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Moseley	0	19-19	21-37	82
Thomas	5	0	0	30
Fugett	5	0	0	30
Grant	3	0	0	18
Riggins	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Thomas	228	806	3.5	31	3
Harmon	94	310	3.3	21	0
Hill	69	257	3.7	34	0
Riggins	68	203	3.0	12	0
Theismann	29	149	5.1	14	1
Kilmer	10	20	2.0	12	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Kilmer	201	99	1187	49.3	7	59	8
Theisman	182	84	1097	46.2	9	52	7

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Fugett	36	631	17.5	52	5
Grant	34	480	14.1	59	3
Thomas	28	245	8.8	25	2
Buggs	26	341	13.1	45	1
Hill	18	154	8.6	23	1
Taylor	14	158	11.3	19	0
Harmon	14	119	8.5	22	1

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Houston	5	69	13.8	31	0
Lavender	4	36	9.0	31	0
Williams	4	25	6.3	25	0
Scott	3	42	14.0	25	0
McDole	2	15	15.0	15	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Bragg	91	3502	38.5	56	0

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Brown	57	8	452	7.9	43	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Brown	34	852	25.1	46	0
Jones	2	42	21.0	29	0
Brunet	2	40	20.0	20	0
Moss	2	35	17.5	21	0
Murphy	3	44	14.7	20	0

As They Stormed into Playoffs, Chicago Screamed Approval

CHICAGO BEARS

Walter Payton
Running Back

Bob Avellini
Quarterback

NFL Closeup: Neill Armstrong

"Fortunate and privileged" are words used by Neill Armstrong to describe his first reactions to being named coach of the Chicago Bears to succeed Jack Pardee. The Bears' 9th head coach in 59 years, Armstrong signed on with Chicago after eight seasons as defensive coordinator of the Minnesota Vikings. A 14-year veteran of the NFL as both player and coach, Armstrong has been in the League's playoffs 11 of those seasons. In seven of his 14 years, his teams have played for the League championship. Born March 9, 1926, at Tishomingo, Okla., Armstrong had a five-year NFL playing career (1947-51) with the Philadelphia Eagles as an offensive end and defensive back. He concluded his playing career in the Canadian Football League (1951, 1953-54) with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Armstrong began his coaching career with a seven-year tour as an assistant at his alma mater, Oklahoma State, from 1955 to 1961. His first coaching exposure to professional football came with the Houston Oiler teams of Frank (Pop) Ivy that were 17-11 in 1962 and 1963. During a six-year reign as head coach of the Edmonton Eskimos, Armstrong led a once downtrodden team into the CFL playoffs three times. His complete CFL record was 37-56-3 from 1964 through 1969. He joined Bud Grant's Viking staff in late 1969 after the CFL season ended but in time for Minnesota's first Super Bowl drive.

1978 BEARS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Oakland Raiders at Chicago (N)
Aug. 12—St. Louis Cardinals at Chicago (N)
Aug. 19—Cincinnati Bengals at Cincinnati (N)
Aug. 24—Seattle Seahawks at Seattle (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 ST. LOUIS (13-16)	O. 29 DETROIT (30-20)
S. 10 San Francisco	N. 5 SEATTLE
S. 17 Detroit (31-14)	N. 12 Minnesota TV (16-22 OT)
S. 25 MINNESOTA N-TV (10-7)	N. 19 ATLANTA (10-16)
O. 1 OAKLAND TV	N. 26 TAMPA BAY (10-0)
O. 8 Green Bay (26-0)	D. 4 San Diego N-TV
O. 16 Denver N-TV	D. 10 GREEN BAY (21-0)
O. 22 Tampa Bay (10-0)	D. 16 Washington TV
1977 Record: 9-5	NFC Playoff Game: Cowboys 37, Bears 7

After driving Chicago football crazy with a resurrecting six-game, season-ending win streak that carried them into the NFL playoffs for the first time in 14 years, the Bears of '78 hope to stir similar excitement as they enter their 59th season under new coach Neill Armstrong.

Where, but in fairy tales, does one find endings like the Bears wrote last year? Twice they were seconds (a total of 12, in fact) away from watching the Super Bowl Tournament on TV. Six-points down with three ticks of the clock remaining against Kansas City, the Bears won. Tied with nine seconds to go against the Giants in overtime, the Bears won. Chicago screamed approval. They played before a club record 1,185,025 fans. They were welcomed home from New York, their playoff clinching jaunt, at O'Hare by a crowd police estimated at 5,000 fans.

Were the Bears for real?

Super Bowl champion Dallas stuck a 37-7 pin in the Bear bubble during the playoff's first round. The '78 Bears know getting to the playoffs is one thing, staying there is quite another. Facing a much more difficult schedule this year, qualifying for the Super bowl playdowns will be more difficult for Chicago despite the addition of an extra wildcard birth for both conferences and the NFL's 16-game schedule. The '78 Bears have five games with winners and three more against 7-7 teams.

Though no timetable had been set, the Bears seemed on course toward an eventual Super Bowl when they were caught up in the newest pro football parlor game—Musical Coaches—in February. Into the void left by Jack Pardee's puzzling departure east, stepped Neill Armstrong—right hand man of Minnesota's Bud Grant for eight years and architect of the Purple Gang defense.

"Jack and his staff did a good job bringing this team along. We hope to keep them improving. I don't know too much about the Chicago defense, but the offense is young, talented and impressive," says Armstrong.

The Bears have indeed built an impressive offensive team; one entering the new season averaging less than three years of previous NFL experience. Headed by 23-year-old NFL player of the year Walter Payton and a line that averages 24.4 years of age, the Bears offense was the League's third best (332.5 yards per game) behind Dallas (343.7) and Oakland (338.3). Chicago was the pro football's only offense that could muster 200 yards a game on the ground.

The defense Armstrong inherits is less impressive. The Bears finished 22nd among the 28 teams in yardage surrendered—one of seven NFL teams to yield over 300 yards a contest. If the Tishomingo, Okla. native were a miraculous healer, the Bears would be a cinch to improve those figures. They were forced to change defensive lineups 10 times over the course of their 14-game regular season. Only five Bears were able to start all 14. Two 1976 regulars Wally Chambers and Roger Stillwell both spent most of the season on injured reserve with surgical knees. Despite injuries, the Bear defenders gave up a League low of just seven TD passes.

OFFENSIVE LINE—As a five-man crew, the Bear offensive line perhaps best reflected the stuff with which winners are made—talent and depth. Injuries induced changes but the Bears were able to come within feet of setting a new team record for rushing yardage last season. Of the Bears that propelled Payton to his 1976 Bear rushing record, only left guard Noah Jackson and right tackle Dennis Lick wound up starters for last year's assault.

Into the vacated positions stepped right guard Revie Sorey, left tackle Ted Albrecht, and center Dan Peiffer. As Payton rewrote the Chicago record book, that quintet started the last 12 games of the season. Sorey, who had been primarily a reserve for his first two seasons, was a key to Payton's success on the Bear sweep-ride series as the pulling guard. He did his job well enough to gain all-NFC honors from United Press International. Albrecht, the number one draft choice, picked up where his all-America days at California ended and was a consensus all-rookie team pick.

CHICAGO'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

3. SHEARER, Brad	DT	Texas
6. SKIBINSKI, John	RB	Purdue
6. IEREMIA, Mekeli	DE	Brigham Young
7. JONES, Herman	WR	Ohio State
8. FREITAS, George	TE	California
9. MARTIN, Mike	LB	Kentucky
10. ZAMBIASI, Ben	LB	Georgia
11. UNDERWOOD, Walt	DE	Southern California
12. SIBLEY, Lew	LB	Louisiana State

As has been the case on two other occasions in his Bear career, Dan Neal's role takes on greater significance with Peiffer's return a finger-crossed proposition. Neal actually started more regular season games than Peiffer in '75 and '76 with little noticeable falloff. Lionel Antoine, who was looking for all-pro honors last year, spent 1977 on the Bears injured reserved list after knee surgery. Should he effectively return, Armstrong could enjoy early Christmas. Medical reports on the gentle giant show glimmers of hope for the man who was once the Bears top lineman.

RUNNING BACKS—Grange, Driscoll, Nagurski, McAfee, Sayers: The Chicago legacy of great runners bronze cast in the Hall of Fame at Canton, Ohio. The now legs of the new Bears, Walter Payton pranced into the NFL record book last year by dashing through, over and around the Minnesota Vikings for 275 yards on route to leading the League in rushing with 1,852 yards. Payton has accomplished much in his 41 League games. Yet there are endless horizons for the quiet one from Jackson State who holds 14 Club records. The MVP of last year's Pro Bowl is still improving as a runner and receiver. As most Bears, he has yet to reach the peak of his game.

"Individual goals are not important," Payton has said. "When I'm finished playing, the biggest compliment I could receive about my career would be for people to say 'Walter Payton was a team ball player'. Anybody could go out and be for himself. But it's 'I help him. He helps me.' We all have one particular goal in mind and that's to reach the Super Bowl. Whatever it takes to get there, we're gonna do it."

Just as Nagurski had Beattie Feathers, McAfee Bill Osmanski, and Sayers Brian Piccolo, Payton has Roland Harper. Most often unrecognized except by bloody-nosed blocking aficionados, Harper has been making the big play for the Bears ever since he entered the League three years ago 416 draft picks down the list from Payton. The Bears carried five running backs in 1977 and two were rookies—242-pound Robin Earl and 205-pound Art Best. Earl, Chicago's third pick in the '77 draft, played well enough to garner three starting assignments in Harper's injury absence and averaged 4.2 yards on his 56 carries. Consistent Johnny Musso backs up both Harper and Payton as well as captaining the Chicago special teams. When he has gotten a chance to play, Musso has proven a major contributor—as evidenced by his 16 for 69 game ball performance at Green Bay last year.

QUARTERBACKS—Don't look now but the brash, strong-armed new guy Bob Avellini has just completed his second full year as the NFL starting quarterback. In his 32 regular season starts, the Bears have come up winners 18 times. He was 2-2 in '75, 7-7 in '76 and, of course 9-5 last year—his tops as a pro. Avellini, with a rating of 61.7 that was Chicago's best since 1969, exceeded by four yards the 2,00 mark in aerial yardage last season—a figure surpassed by only six other Bears.

RECEIVERS—Almost a third of Avellini's completions went into the hands of lightning quick James Scott last year. On the 50 times they hooked up, the average gain for the Bears was 16.3 yards. Only the Cowboys' Drew Pearson (870) and Oilers' Ken Burrough (816) surpassed Scotts' 809 yards receiving last year. Twice the Bears rewarded Scott with game balls from key wins. One of the 14 free agents on the Bears veteran roster, Scott may have to find a bigger mantel to display those game-winning trophies should predictions of successful longevity come true. Brian Baschnagel, Bo Rather, Steve Schubert and, late in the season, Steve Rivera completed the Chicago catch corps with a combined 30 grabs on the year.

TIGHT ENDS—When the Bears traded for Greg Latta three years ago on the counsel of his former World League coach Pardee, they were told Chicago would be getting a big play guy. During his first two seasons, Latta would be the first to admit he had his problems—especially the blocking part. He could always get open and deep. The blocking continues to improve (ask Payton). Latta has dominated the position for the last two seasons playing almost every down. Thus time for Chuck Bradley and Bob Parsons has been scarce. Parsons is, of course, the punter with a knack for keeping Bear drives alive with fourth down passes.

DEFENSIVE END—If there was a definite setback to the Bears continuing progress program, it was in their defensive line. A year ago, Chicago set a club record with 49 sacks. Last season, the production fell to 26—less than two per game. The unlikely constants were right end Billy Newsome and right tackle Ron Rydalch, who finished one-two in sacks and were the only linemen to start every game. Neither had been a Bear regular before last season. Newsome in fact was in a New York Jet uniform in 1976. Rydalch nailed nine enemy quarterbacks and led the front four in tackles with 77. Newsome, who joined the Club late in the preseason in a trade with the Buffalo Bills, posted five sacks and caused a pair of fumbles. Osborne, whose sack production fell from 15 in 1976 to four last year, was among the toughest Bears against the rush stacking up seven running plays for minus yardage in the 12 games he started.

LINEBACKERS—At times last season Jack Pardee was probably tempted to resume his playing career when injuries reduced the linebacking corps to a bandage advertisement. Unprecedented in Chicago, three backers all made their first pro football starts last year—Jerry Muckensturm, Gary Campbell and Tom Hicks. Perhaps coincidentally, Chicago was undefeated after Hicks captured the starting middle linebacking position. Muckensturm and Campbell both got starting assignments after regulars Doug Buffone and Waymond Bryant were sidelined with pain. As solid a Chicago establishment as the Water Tower, Buffone by midseason should be appearing in his 162nd game to set another Club longevity mark.

SECONDARY—Time worn, but accurate cliche to describe the Bears defensive backfield: Thunder and Lightning. High-impact collisions are the specialty of safeties Gary Fencik and Doug Plank. Allan Ellis and Virgil Livers are the speed on the corners. As a unit they permitted just seven TD passes last season—the best record in the League.

Targeting all-League honors in the near future, Ellis was named to his first Pro Bowl squad and was a second team all-NFL pick. The five-year veteran has allowed just one touchdown pass in the past two seasons while intercepting 12 passes. With opponents tending to stay away from Ellis, Livers led the team in passes broken up with 16 and added two game balls to his growing collection.

Safeties Craig Clemons and Len Walterscheid are aggressive players like the starters. Clemons started 58 consecutive games at strong safety before yielding to Fencik. Walterschied has seen only a sprinkle of scrimmage action but led the special teams in tackles.

SPECIAL TEAMS—When the Bears win, special teams generally play a paramount role in the victory. As their 9-5 record indicates, Chicago's special teams are far above the League's average. Punter Bob Parsons, a second-team all-NFC pick, averaged 40.4 yards per kick past season. The Bears 35.1 net figure was only exceeded by two other NFL teams, Parsons also positioned 17 of his 80 punts inside opponent's 20-yard lines. Headed by coverage men like Len Waterscheid, Johnny Musso (the captain of the teams), Brian Baschnagel and Steve Schubert, the average return against the Bears was a meager 5.1 yards—better than 24 other NFL clubs. ●

1977 BEARS STATISTICS

	Bears	Opps.
Total Points Scored	255	253
Total First Downs	247	241
Third Down Efficiency	30.6	35.7
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2811-141	2158-124
Passes Att-Completed	305-161	377-182
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1844-94	2127-106
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	26-226	27-207
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	18-7.7	18-9.5
Punts-Average Yards	82-39.4	93-39.1
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret	47-10.0	42-5.1
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	57-22.3	52-19.4
Fumbles-Ball Lost	36-17	27-13
Penalties-Yards	97-852	83-671

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Payton	16	0	0	96
Thomas	0	27-30	14-27	69
Latta	4	0	0	24
Scott	3	0	0	18
Musso	2	0	0	12
Rather	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Payton	339	1852	5.5	73	14
Harper	120	457	3.8	19	0
Earl	56	233	4.2	34	1
Musso	37	132	3.6	13	2
Avellini	37	109	2.9	21	1

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Avellini	293	154	2004	52.6	18	75	11

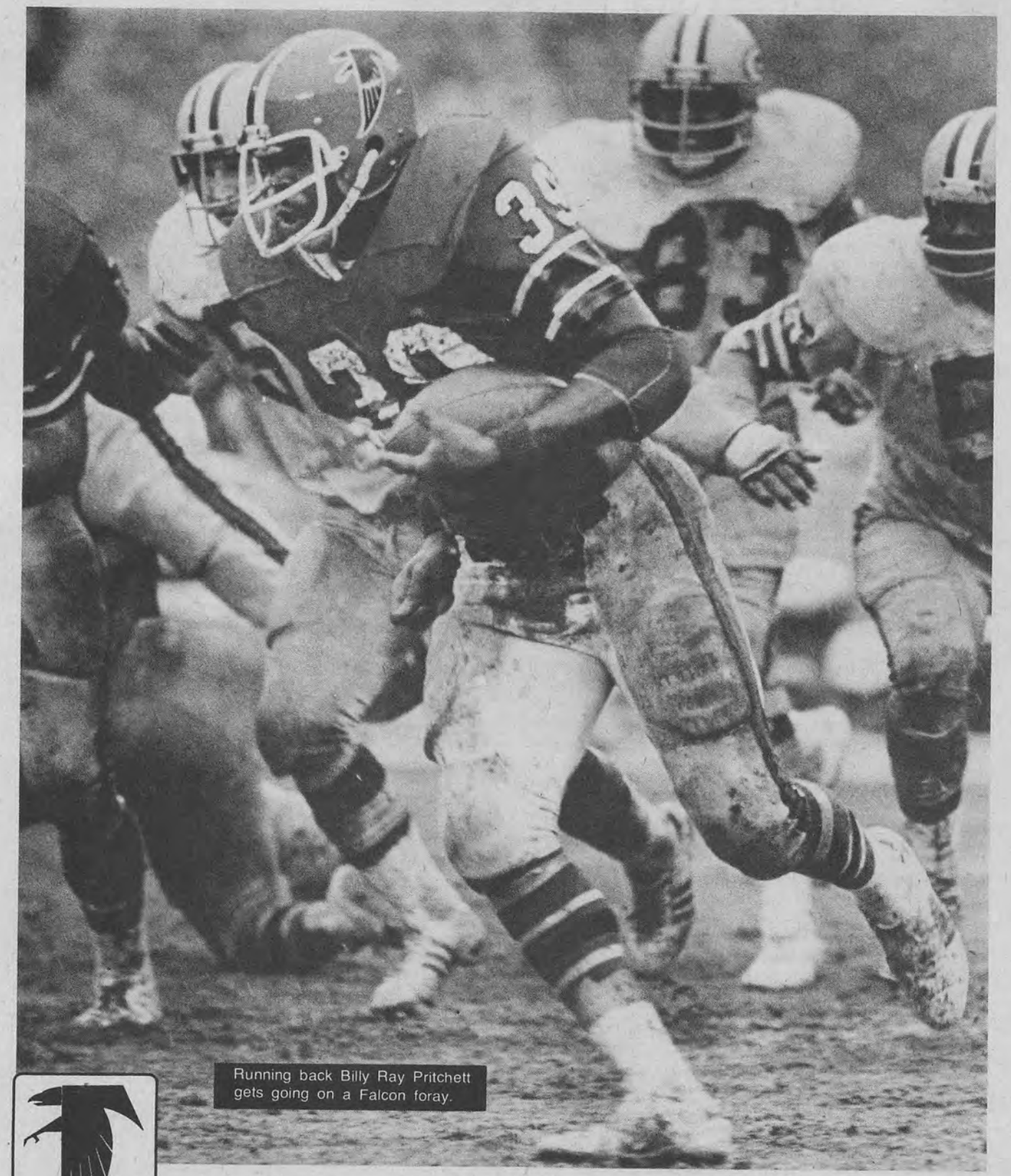
Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Scott	50	809	16.2	72	3
Payton	27	269	10.0	75	2
Latta	26	335	12.9	37	4
Harper	19	142	7.5	34	0
Rather	17	294	17.3	42	2
Schubert	8	119	14.9	32	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Ellis	6	23	3.8	11	0
Fencik	4	33	8.3	23	0
Plank	4	32	8.0	20	0
Livers	2	29	14.5	29	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Parsons	80	3232	40.4	58	2

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Schubert	31	10	291	9.4	70	1
Walterscheid	6	1	59	9.8	14	0
Livers	6	1	46	7.7	21	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Baschnagel	23	557	24.2	84	1
Evans	13	253	19.5	30	0
Best	6	127	21.2	29	0



Running back Billy Ray Pritchett gets going on a Falcon foray.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Bennett Enters 2nd Season As Dean of NFC West Coaches

There were few bigger surprises in professional football last season than the breakeven record of the Atlanta Falcons. But a similar mark in 1978 will not startle as many people, and head coach Leeman Bennett anticipates a tougher season for that very reason. "It'll be more difficult, since the element of surprise will be missing," he says. "However, our plan is unchanged. We want to build a consistent team that is always capable of playing for the title."

The Falcons were a near unanimous preseason selection for the NFC Western Division cellar last season, but under the leadership of new general manager Eddie LeBaron

NFL Closeup: Leeman Bennett

In one short year, Altanta's head coach has gone from "Leeman Who?" to Leeman Bennett, NFC Coach-of-the-Year. The notoriety has changed considerably, but Bennett remains the same. "I'm still a 'people coach,' " says Bennett. "It's not all X's and O's. You have got to have communication."

Bennett was able to communicate the Falcons to a break-even 7-7 record during his first season in '77. It was the best Atlanta mark since 1973, but he's not making any grandoise promises. "Our goal is still the same," says Bennett. "We want to build a football team that is competitive for the title, year in and year out."

It is a situation familiar to him. Prior to coming to the Falcons, he was an assistant for four years with Los Angeles and the Rams went to the playoffs every year.

and Bennett, they pursued the division winning Rams right down to the season's final weeks.

Headline story in Atlanta was the Falcon defense, which set a modern day NFL record of 129 points allowed for a 14-game schedule. In the process, the defense established new standards in nearly every team category as well.

While the defense was grabbing the accolades, the offense was undergoing some growing pains. After a brilliant preseason, quarterback Steve Bartkowski missed the first seven games of the regular season with a knee injury before returning in midseason. During the interim, Scott Hunter did an excellent job of directing the ball control attack, but points were a precious commodity. And so were players. In addition to Bartkowski, the Falcons lost running back Bubba Bean for the entire season with a knee injury, also veteran offensive lineman Len Gotshalk, also with a knee.

Youth was accented by starting offensive line rookies Warren Bryant at right tackle, and R. C. Thielemann at right guard. Neither missed a play during the entire season and both were All-NFL rookie selections. However, the offensive plight was best summed up when the Falcons played Washington. The total experience along the Atlanta offensive line was 16 years, compared to 17 years alone for the Redskins' defensive and Ron McDole.

Along with Bryant and Thielemann, the bright spots were wide receiver Alfred Jenkins, who led the squad in receiving for the third consecutive year. Jenkins enters the '78 season with a string of 40 consecutive pass-catching games. Running back Haskel Stanback rushed for 873 yards and caught 30 passes for 261 yards.

The points allowed record overshadowed the other achievements of the defense, but there were some other notable items. The quarter-to-quarter consistency was simply incredible. In no quarter did the Falcons allow more than 10 points. Team records set include most sacks (42), most interceptions (26), and fewest yards allowed in a season (3,242). The accomplishments become even more startling when one considers that the defense included only those players drafted higher than the sixth round (end Claude Humphrey, tackle Jim Bailey and linebacker Ralph Ortega.)

Two players, Humphrey and cornerback Rolland Lawrence, evolved as All-Pros but a solid case could have been made for no less than five Falcon regulars. Maybe the most underrated members of the unit were free safety Ray Easterling, who led the squad in tackles and frightened more than one quarterback with his timely blitzes, and hard charging defensive end Jeff Merrow. The performance of the defense could have been possibly better if the team had not lost one of its best linebackers when Fulton Kuykendall sustained a broken arm in the fifth game of the year. "We felt as if he was playing as well as any linebacker in the NFL when he was hurt," says Bennett.

Falcon special teams again excelled, thanks to punter-extraordinaire John James. James averaged 41.4 yards per kick, but more importantly, had 21 punts go out of bounds inside the 20 yard line, good enough for a third consecutive Pro Bowl appearance. The placekicking game got off to a shaky start, but the addition of free agent Fred Steinfort proved a plus in the second half of the year.

"We built a base last season," says Bennett, who enters his second season as the Dean of Western Division coaches. "Now we must continue to grow. The newness has worn off, the opponents have a better idea what to expect, and with the schedule, it's going to be an exciting challenge."

Bennett Views the Falcons

RUNNINGBACKS—"A year ago, we regarded this area as a strong point, but injuries changed the outlook drastically. Bubba Bean again appears to be the key. He did not play a down last year because of his knee injury. Should he return to full health, it would be a tremendous boost. Haskel Stanback showed that he does a good job of finding the open spots and is a very adequate receiver out of the backfield. Woody Thompson did a good job for us after Monroe Eley sustained a broken foot. He is a strong, powerful runner as is Eley. Secedrick McIntyre could also be an asset. He has great speed and quickness, and was quite impressive at the end of last season. In Mike Esposito, we have a back who always seems to get a yard when it is needed, and can be a good receiver. Billy Pritchett and Dave Farmer, who was on injured reserve last season, have not yet played enough to evaluate. Farmer had very impressive statistics at Southern California."

QUARTERBACKS—"We'll go to camp with four, and I wouldn't rule any of them out. Starting with Bartkowski, I still feel that he hasn't been healthy long enough to give an accurate picture. He's got the strong arm, the quick release, good size, but his techniques need improvement."

"Scott Hunter played very well when called upon last year. His strong point is his leadership ability and his experience. He'll find a way to move the team and not let the offense make a big mistake. Kim McQuilken also has plenty of experience and played well when called upon last season. June Jones is a player we can only judge on

1978 FALCONS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 7—New York Jets at Giants Stadium, N.J. (N)
Aug. 12—Pittsburgh Steelers at Pittsburgh (N)
Aug. 19—Philadelphia Eagles at Atlanta (N)
Aug. 25—Washington Redskins at Washington (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 HOUSTON
S. 10 Los Angeles (7-23)
S. 17 CLEVELAND
S. 24 Tampa Bay (17-0)
O. 1 NY GIANTS (17-3)
O. 8 Pittsburgh
O. 15 DETROIT (17-6)
O. 22 San Francisco (7-0)
1977 Record: 7-7

O. 30 LOS ANGELES N-TV (17-6)
N. 5 SAN FRANCISCO (3-10)
N. 12 New Orleans (20-21)
N. 19 Chicago (16-10)
N. 26 NEW ORLEANS (35-7)
D. 3 Cincinnati
D. 10 WASHINGTON (6-10)
D. 17 St. Louis

ATLANTA'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1.	KENN, Mike	T	Michigan
2.	STEWART, Steve	LB	Minnesota
3.	WALDEMORE, Stan	G	Nebraska
4.	CABRAL, Brian	LB	Colorado
5.	PEARSON, Dennis	WR	San Diego State
6.	PARKER, Rodney	WR	Tennessee State
7.	JACKSON, Alfred	WR	Texas
7.	WRIGHT, James	TE	Texas Christian
8.	ADKINS, David	LB	Ohio State
8.	WILLIAMS, David	DB	Tenn.-Martin
9.	PRIDEMORE, Tom	DB	West Virginia
10.	PATTON, Ricky	RB	Jackson State
10.	STRONG, Ray	RB	Nevada-Las Vegas
11.	REED, MILTON	DB	Baylor
12.	BUTLER, Daria	LB	Oklahoma State

potential. He has a good arm, is smart and may develop into a top flight quarterback."

RECEIVERS—"Overall, our talent is adequate. Alfred Jenkins is small, but he's got good speed and quickness, runs good patterns, and makes yardage after receptions. You don't catch passes in 40 consecutive games in the NFL by accident. Wallace Francis got his first chance to start during his career last year and did very well. Karl Farmer did not play until late in the season, but pleased us with his ability to catch. With his speed, he could become an excellent receiver. Billy Ryckman was a rookie and played primarily on special teams, but don't think there's a player in the league with better hands. At tight end, we have Jim Mitchell who had some problems with injuries last season, but should return to full speed in '78."

OFFENSIVE LINE—"We have the nucleus for an outstanding offensive line, but we are still short on experience and depth. At right tackle, Warren Bryant had a great rookie year and has All-Pro potential. R.C. Thielemann was a pleasant surprise at right guard. Consistency is one of his strongest points. On the other side of center we are still very young. Dave Scott has a lot of potential at left guard, but is still quite inconsistent. Brent Adams and Phil McKinnely alternated as the starter at left tackle. Both appear to have futures in the NFL. Bob Jordan, a late season free agent, rounds out our linemen. At center, we have veteran Jeff Van Note who successfully came off of knee surgery last season."

DEFENSIVE LINE—"In All-Pro Claude Humphrey we have a player who sacrificed much of his pass rushing ability to play in a team-oriented defensive concept. Still, he had ten sacks. Our right defensive end Jeff Merrow has the potential to be right along side of Claude. He's a great hustler and his style of play is that of a street fighter. He's always in pursuit and has the speed to run down ballcarriers from behind. Our reserves are Jeff Yeates and Edgar Fields both did an excellent job on special teams."

"We have a couple of consistent veterans at tackle in Mike Lewis and Jim Bailey with 17 years of experience between them. Backing them up is Wilson Faumuina, who played primarily in passing situations last year."

LINEBACKERS—"Ralph Ortega played his first full season at middle linebacker and grew with the job. He still needs to improve his play against the run, but does a great job of pass defensing. Greg Brezina continues to play the right linebacker and shows little signs of slowing down despite ten years in the league."

"Fulton Kuykendall was out most of '77 with a broken arm after missing half the previous season with a back injury. The only thing keeping him from stardom is a healthy year. After our starters, we are not blessed with depth. Dewey McClain, Robert Pennywell and Ron McCartney saw a lot of playing time after Kuykendall's injury, and Rick Key could also help."

DEFENSIVE BACKS—"As a group, they may have been among the smallest in the NFL, but they performed with the best. Rolland Lawrence was an All-Pro selection. He has also done an outstanding job as a kick return man. Rick Byas won the other starting cornerback job in the fourth game of the season last year and performed well. He is not big at 5-9, but has good speed. Backing him up is Frank Reed who had a disappointing soph season after a good rookie year. We see no reason he cannot return to his 1976 form."

"At safeties are Ray Easterling, free, and Ray Brown, strong. Easterling is very strong for a player his size and does a great job of tackling. Brown has a lot of experience and savvy and does not make many mistakes. They are backed up by Tom Moriarty, who played mostly on special teams and did a great job."

1977 FALCONS STATISTICS

	Falcons	Opps.
Total Points Scored	179	129
Total First Downs	198	192
Third Down Efficiency	29.5	32.0
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1890-102	1858-100
Passes Att-Completed	297-140	320-141
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1357-80	1384-76
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	40-384	42-391
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	26-18.2	16-12.2
Punts-Average Yards	106-41.2	99-38.6
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	59-6.8	58-8.9
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	34-18.3	43-23.7
Fumbles-Ball Lost	28-9	35-22
Penalties-Yards	101-898	98-865

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Stanback	6	0	0	36
Steinfort	0	13-13	6-11	31
Mike-Mayer	0	7-7	7-19	28
Jenkins	4	0	0	24

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Stanback	247	873	3.5	35	6
Thompson	132	478	3.6	22	1
Eley	97	273	2.8	16	1
Esposito	34	101	3.0	23	0
Hunter	28	70	2.5	18	1

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Hunter	151	70	898	46.4	3	49	2
Bartkowski	136	64	796	47.1	13	73	5
McQuilken	7	5	47	71.4	0	14	1

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Jenkins	39	677	17.4	73	4
Stanback	30	261	8.7	36	0
Francis	26	390	15.0	32	1
Mitchell	17	178	10.5	17	0
Thompson	12	56	4.7	9	0
Eley	9	60	6.7	14	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Lawrence	7	138	19.7	36	0
Brown	5	56	11.2	24	0
Easterling	4	46	11.5	36	0
Ortega	4	15	3.8	6	0
Byas	3	132	44.0	72	1

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
James	105	4349	41.4	61	0

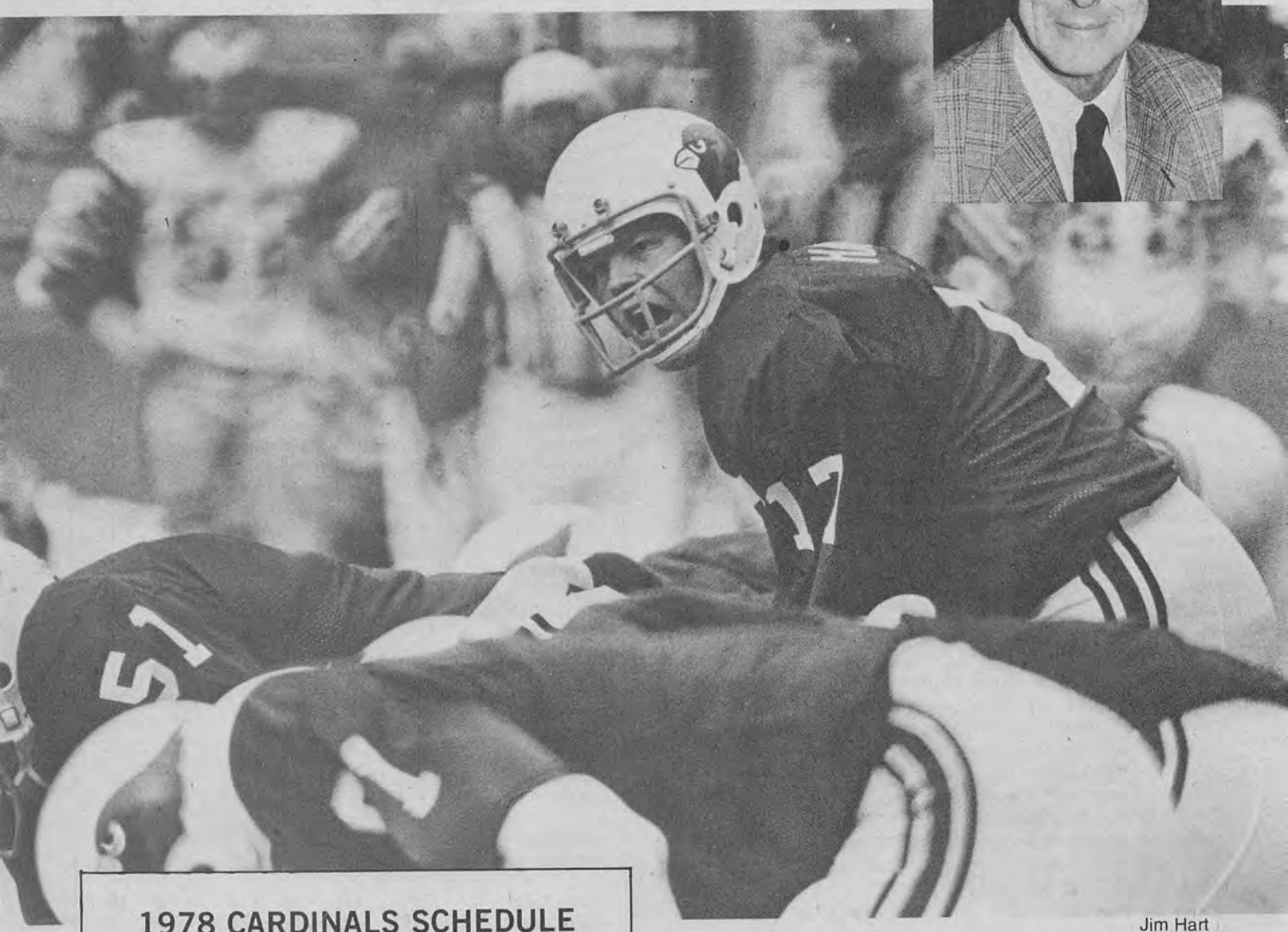
Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Lawrence	51	10	352	6.9	37	0
Ryckman	7	2	40	5.7	20	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Farmer	23	466	20.3	30	0
Moriarty	5	75	15.0	25	0

Bud Wilkinson: A Winner Sooner . . . or Later?

SAINT LOUIS CARDINALS

Bud Wilkinson
Head Coach



Jim Hart
Quarterback

1978 CARDINALS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Miami Dolphins at Miami Orange Bowl (N)
Aug. 12—Chicago Bears at Chicago (N)
Aug. 19—Green Bay Packers at Green Bay (N)
Aug. 26—Kansas City Chiefs at Kansas City (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Chicago (16-13)
S. 10 NEW ENGLAND
S. 17 WASHINGTON (20-26)
S. 24 Dallas TV (24-17)
O. 1 Miami (14-55)
O. 8 BALTIMORE
O. 15 DALLAS (24-30)
O. 22 NY Jets
1977 Record: 7-7

O. 29 Philadelphia (21-17)
N. 5 NY GIANTS (28-0)
N. 12 San Francisco
N. 19 Washington (14-24)
N. 26 PHILADELPHIA (21-16)
D. 3 DETROIT
D. 10 NY Giants (7-27)
D. 17 ATLANTA

Bud Wilkinson, comes and Terry Metcalf goes and that poses a couple of tough questions in St. Louis. First, how do you replace a man like Metcalf, who has flown the coop to Toronto and the Canadian Football League Argonauts? Metcalf led the Redbirds with 749 yards gained on 149 carries, gained 108 yards on 14 punt returns, added another 772 yards on 32 punt returns, and was third-leading pass receiver for the Cards.

Wilkinson, in his heydey as coach of the seldom-challenged University of Oklahoma Sooners in the fifties, was a living legend. But he hasn't coached in 15 years, and many people think that's way too many years out of the frying pan. On the other hand, he's been in touch, broadcasting football for all these years and staying on close terms with so many people who coach football teams. And many of them are just refining what he invented. Don't forget he produced a revolutionary "Oklahoma" defense in the fifties—the three-four that has suddenly appeared on the pro scene lately. And the option offense, with the quar-

ST. LOUIS 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. LITTLE, Steve	K	Arkansas
1. GREENE, Ken	DB	Washington State
2. BAREFIELD, John	LB	Texas A&I
3. GREENE, Doug	DB	Texas A&I
4. COLLINS, George	G	Georgia
4. CHILDS, Jim	WR	Cal Poly-SLO
5. CARR, Earl	RB	Florida
6. WILLIAMS, Jack	DE	Bowling Green
7. STIEF, Dave	WR	Portland State
9. MOSLEY, Joe	TE	Central State, Ohio
10. GILL, Randy	LB	San Jose State
12. CLAY, Anthony	LB	South Carolina State

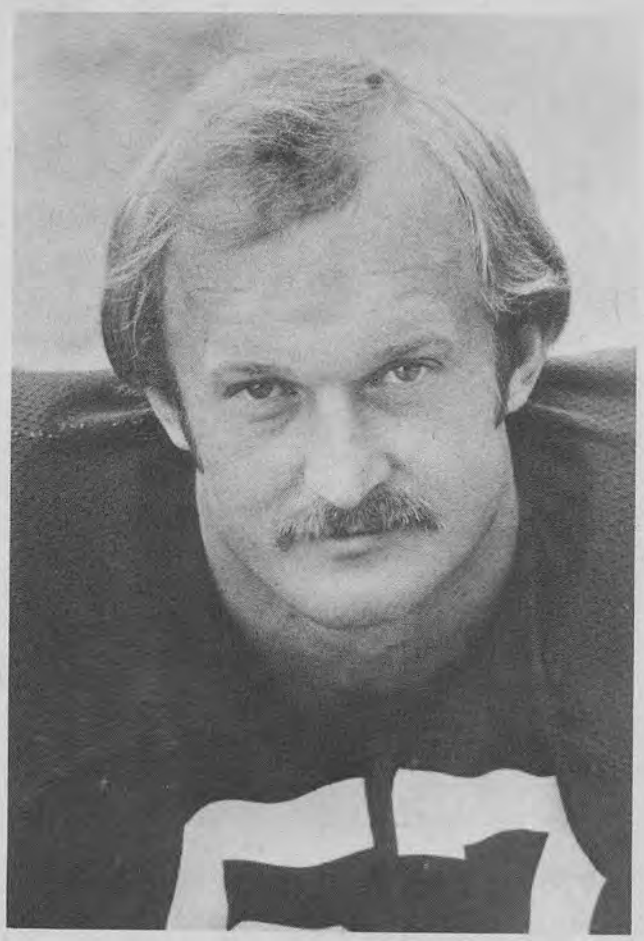
terback running a keep-and-carry series. That was Bud's baby, too.

The quarterback, of course, is Jim Hart, who is in his prime years as pro quarterbacks go. Last year, he completed 52.3% of the 354 passes he launched, 13 for touchdowns. His backups are Steve Pisarkiewicz and Bill Donckers. Mel Gray, the Cardinal players' choice as MVP in '77, hangs in at wide end. Fast and elusive, Gray caught 39 passes last year, five of them for touchdowns, for an average of 20 yards a catch. Pat Tilley, the other wide man, caught only six forwards last fall. Tight end J.V. Cain went out and got 25 for 328 yards. There's been talk of his moving over to a split post and fullback George Franklin moving in at tight end.

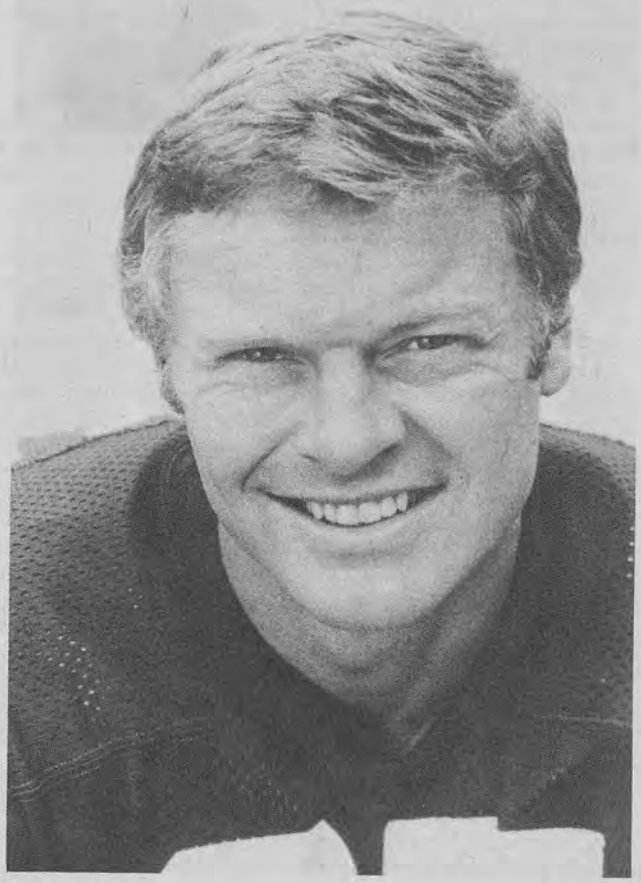
Franklin, last year's number two draft choice, played wide receiver and fullback at Texas A&I. He had 4.43 speed in the 40 before he underwent knee surgery. That kept him out of work in what would have been his rookie year but he'll be heard from somewhere this year—if that knee has been mended. Another young Texan, Wayne Morris, will have to be considered as a replacement for Metcalf. He came up from SMU two years ago, and managed, in Metcalf's shadow last fall, to gain 661 yards overland, on 165 trips. He also caught 23 passes. Between running the ball and catching it, he contributed nine touchdowns to the cause of Don Coryell's 7-7 '77 Cardinals. Morris showed particular promise one day last fall when he gained 182 yards against the Vikings. If his back is healthy, it may be a strong one for the Cards to lean on.

Nasty Conrad Dobler is gone from the forward offensive wall, but the Cardinals got Terry Stieve from the Saints for him and aren't complaining. Hard-hitting offensive captain Dan Dierdorf stays in a tackle spot, where he's become accustomed to pass-blocking for Hart. The other

Roger Finnie
Defensive Tackle



Mark Arneson
Linebacker



Jim Bakken
Kicker

Mel Gray
Wide Receiver

tackle has been Roger Finnie, with Bob Young returning at guard and Tom Banks hanging in at center.

The defense is in somewhat more need of repair, considering it gave up 4504 yards last year. That ranked it 24th in the league of 28. The defense had good days (like a shutout of the Giants) and bad days (like a 55-point bath it took from the Dolphins). It also gave the Giants 27 points in another game. It might blush a bit at the memory that Tampa Bay picked it for 17 points.

Ends Bob Pollard and John Zook are responsible for the pass rush. If Wilkinson were to use a 3-4, they might be the flanks with Mike Dawson in the middle. Dawson is strong against the run. So is Charlie Davis, who might be the other tackle in a 4-3. He made 59 solo tackles and 27 assists last year.

Right behind the Pollard-Dawson-Zook defense you could look for Steve Neils and Mark Arneson at the outside linebacking posts and Eric Williams and Tim Kearney on the inside. Arneson led the Cardinals with 64 unassisted tackles and 30 assists last year and Kearney was second with 62 alone and 30 aided. Arneson made a couple of interceptions last fall, which couldn't hurt. Perry Smith could strengthen the secondary if he has recovered from the foot injury that hobbled him last year. He would fit in at left cornerback again. The right cornerback is Mr. Right, Roger Wehrli, who led the defense of '77 with five interceptions. He has made 17 recoveries of opponent fumbles in his St. Louis career, most ever by a Cardinal. Mike Sensibaugh, the free safety, made three interceptions last fall, returning one for a touchdown and helping the Cardinals gain field position by returning all those interceptions for 110 yards. Lee Nelson, who missed the last four games of last year with a banged up knee, is the presumed strong safety. He made four interceptions when available last year.

Wilkinson feels that a once-strong kicking game could use some beefing up. Duane Carrell, last year's punter, managed a 38.7-yard average on his 22 punts. The coaches believe he needs to work on his hang time, but they do like the way he gets the ball off in a trice. Jim Bakken, who has played in 218 consecutive games for St. Louis, is fourth among all-time scorers in the National Football League with 1,320 points. He succeeded on 35 of the 36 points-after he attempted last year, and made seven of the 16 field goals he tried. He's still touch in the clutch. But the ball doesn't seem to go as far any more, particularly on kickoffs. ●

1977 CARDINALS STATISTICS

	Cardinals	Opps.
Total Points Scored	272	287
Total First Downs	247	258
Third Down Efficiency	41.9	38.9
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2042-114	2237-122
Passes Att-Completed	365-194	375-198
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2482-117	2267-120
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	15-109	25-209
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	19-14.1	21-8.7
Punts-Average Yards	71-36.7	72-39.5
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	40-7.5	33-4.8
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	59-21.5	55-20.1
Fumbles-Ball Lost	30-16	19-12
Penalties-Yards	95-827	83-812

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Bakken	0	35-36	7-16	56
Morris	9	0	0	54
Metcalf	6	0	0	36
Gray	5	0	0	30
Harris	3	0	0	18
Jones	3	0	0	18
Cain	2	0	0	12
Latin	2	0	0	12
Otis	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Metcalf	149	739	5.0	62	4
Morris	165	661	4.0	35	8
Otis	99	334	3.4	25	2
Latin	56	208	3.7	17	2
Jones	24	77	3.2	18	3
Hart	11	18	1.6	13	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Hart	354	185	2534	52.3	20	59	13

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Harris	40	547	13.7	38	3
Gray	38	782	20.6	69	5
Metcalf	33	395	12.0	68	2
Cain	25	328	13.1	38	2
Morris	23	222	9.7	34	1
Jones	12	66	5.5	16	0
Latin	9	89	9.9	20	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Wehrli	5	44	8.8	41	0
Nelson	4	37	9.3	26	0
Sensibaugh	3	110	36.7	79	1
Reaves	2	17	8.5	10	0
Arneson	2	23	11.5	15	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Joyce	22	851	38.7	58	1
Carrell	49	1757	35.9	53	0

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Metcalf	14	0	108	7.7	23	0
Tilley	13	4	111	8.5	21	0
Bradley	11	0	77	7.0	14	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Metcalf	32	772	24.1	51	0
Jones	8	132	16.5	25	0
Nelson	3	68	22.7	36	0
Latin	3	79	26.3	33	0

Three Detroit Lions—which way will they pounce under new coach?

DETROIT LIONS

Clark: "Promises and Predictions Are For Losers"

Monte Clark, who two seasons ago led the San Francisco 49ers to an 8-6 won-lost record, takes over as head man of the Detroit Lions. Here's a position-by-position rundown of what he has to work with, plus a re-cap of 1977 happenings:

Traditionally, the defense in Detroit has ranked with the best. Last year, the group displayed the same excellence, ranking fifth in the conference and eighth among all NFL teams. Overall, the 1977 version came up with more sacks and forced more fumbles than the '76 unit, which placed third in the League.

Defensive MVP for the second consecutive season, Charlie Weaver, and fellow linebackers Paul Naumoff, Ed O'Neil and Jim Laslavic, played well throughout the year. Rookie Tony Daykin, along with second-year performer Garth Ten Napel, established themselves as top future prospects. Weaver, Naumoff and O'Neil were all among the club leaders in tackles with better than 50 apiece.

The defensive line was anchored by tackles Doug English and Herb Orvis, with Ken Sanders, Jim Mitchell, Ernest Price and John Woodcock alternating at the ends.

NFL Closeup: Monte Clark

His official title is, "Head Coach and Director of Football Operations, "having been named to that job last January by Detroit Lions owner William Clay Ford. "I wanted Monte to control his own destiny," says Ford. "He will have sole responsibility for all team-related activities and will report directly to me."

The 41-year-old Clark spent six years as offensive coach under Don Shula at Miami. He helped develop the Dolphins into one of the NFL's most feared offensive units. A pair of Super Bowl titles, along with three straight AFC Championships, brought him immediate coaching recognition. Under his leadership, Miami led the conference in rushing three straight years and set a new NFL single-season rushing record in 1972. Clark became head coach at San Francisco in 1976 and only some close, late-season defeats denied the team a playoff berth. But it was an 8-6 mark for Clark in his first year as head man—three more wins for the 49ers over the previous season. Clark's coaching career began after an 11-year playing stint as an NFL offensive lineman with San Francisco, Dallas and Celveland.

1978 LIONS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Buffalo Bills at Pontiac Silverdome (N)
Aug. 12—Cincinnati Bengals at Cincinnati
Aug. 21—Cleveland Browns at Cleveland
Aug. 26—Baltimore Colts at Pontiac Silverdome (N)

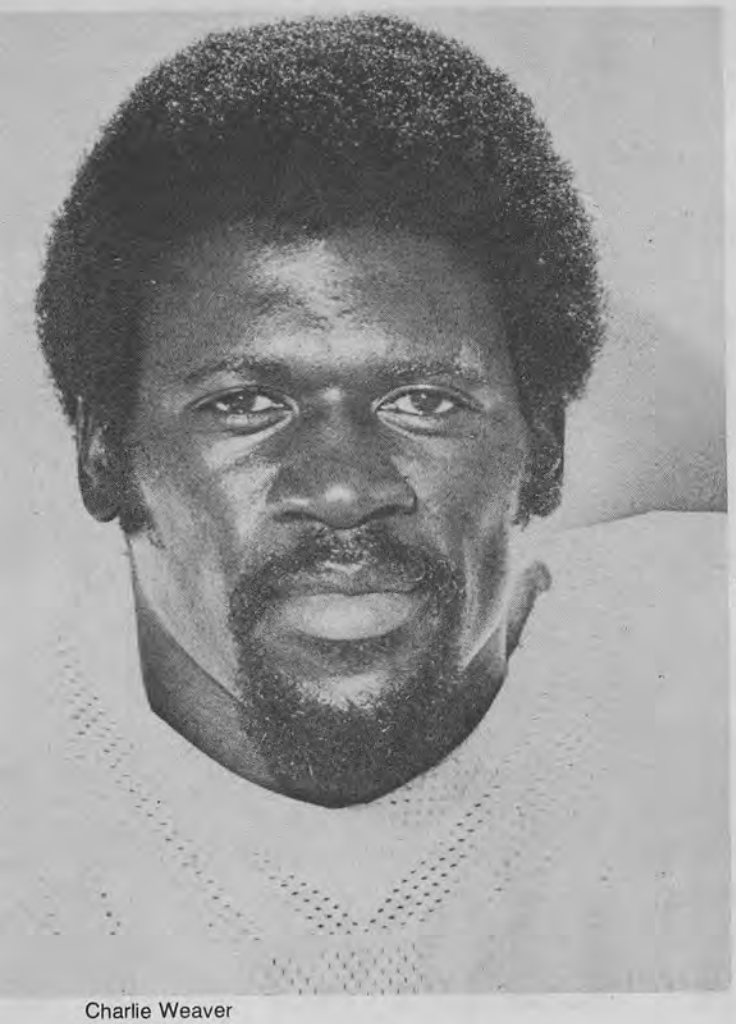
REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 GREEN BAY (10-6)
S. 9 Tampa Bay N
S. 17 CHICAGO 14-31
S. 24 Seattle
O. 1 Green Bay-Mil (9-10)
O. 8 WASHINGTON
O. 15 Atlanta (6-17)
O. 22 SAN DIEGO (20-0)
1977 Record: 6-8

O. 29 Chicago (20-3)
N. 5 Minnesota
N. 12 TAMPA BAY (16-7)
N. 19 Oakland
N. 23 DENVER TV
D. 3 St. Louis
D. 11 MINNESOTA TV (21-30)
D. 17 SAN FRANCISCO (7-28)
Mil-Game at Milwaukee

DETROIT'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. BRADLEY, Luther	DB	Notre Dame
2. BAKER, Al	DE	Colorado State
4. FIFER, William	T	West Texas State
4. ELIAS, Homer	G	Tennessee State
4. TEARRY, Larry	C	Wake Forest
5. FOWLER, Amos	G	So. Mississippi
5. GRAY, Dan	DE	Rutgers
6. HICKS, Dwight	DB	Michigan
6. ARDIZZONE, Tony	G	Northwestern
6. THOMPSON, Jesse	WR	California
7. GIBSON, Bruce	RB	Pacific
8. BREECH, Jim	K	California
10. ARRINGTON, Fred	LB	Purdue
11. MURRAY, Richard	DT	Oklahoma
12. PATTERSON, Mark	DB	Washington State



Charlie Weaver
Linebacker

Paul Naumoff
Linebacker

Along with 12-year veteran Larry Hand, the unit played an aggressive, gang-tackling form of defense and accounted for most of the club's 32 sacks.

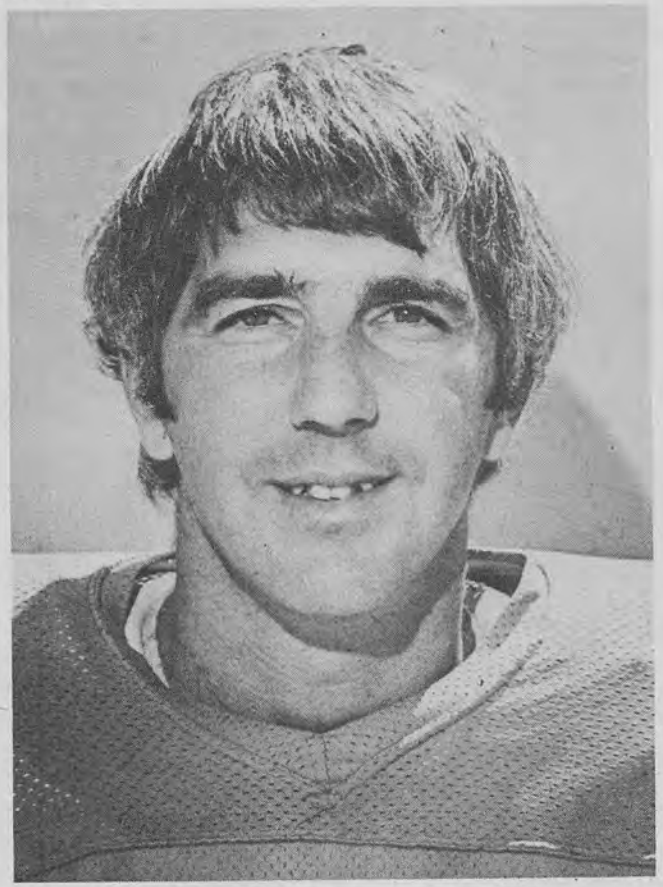
Second-year cornerback James Hunter tied for second among NFL interceptors. His six steals last fall gave him a total of 13 for his 27-game Lion career. Lem Barney, playing in his 11th season as a Lion, snared three enemy passes and provided steady help at cornerback. Veteran safetymen Dick Jauron and Charlie West missed just one game between them and rookies Walt Williams and Reggie Pinkney put on some exciting shows.

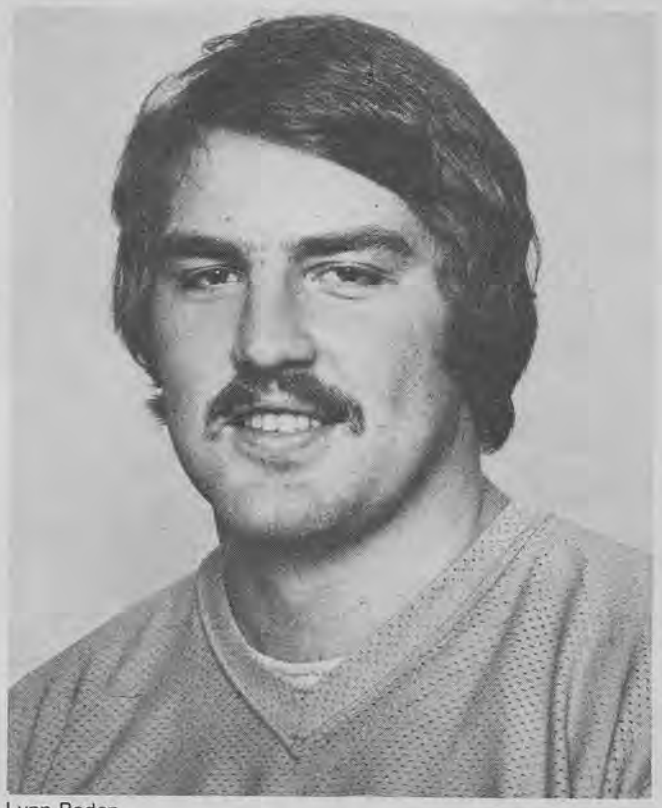
On offense, the Lions started very quickly last fall, then were hurt by a series of injuries. Through the first three games of 1977, Detroit ranked among the NFC's offensive leaders. Quarterback Greg Landry produced some impressive stats, as did running backs Dexter Bussey and Horace King. The duo was two-three on conference rushing lists after three contests.

But it was that third game, Oct. 2 vs. Philadelphia at Pontiac, when injuries began gnawing away at the team. Starting offensive lineman Rockne Freitas and defensive back Levi Johnson both suffered knee mishaps and required surgery. The following week, it was another first-string lineman, Mark Markovich, forced to sit out the remaining games with knee problems. Then Bussey was hurt and missed six of the final seven contests with a sprained ankle. Charlie Sanders, the 10-year veteran tight end, who earlier in the season had set the all-time club mark for career receptions, sat out the last weeks of the campaign. He became the sixth Lion to require surgery during the year. One of the six, Lawrence Gaines, didn't play a down after a fine rookie season in 1976 as a fullback. A total of 17 starters missed at least one game with various physical setbacks.

With all the necessary substitutions and changes due to

Greg Landry
Quarterback





Lynn Boden
Guard

injury, the offense remained competitive. Rookie Rick Kane, subbing for Bussey, proved to be a sturdy workhorse in the Detroit backfield. For the year, he rushed for 421 yards to rank second on the club. He carried the ball 124 times, including a high of 30 against Atlanta. Kane's 105-yard day against San Diego, a 20-0 Lion victory, was one of the finest showings ever by a Detroit rookie. Durable Horace King led the team in rushing and receiving. With 521 yards on the ground, King still found time to catch 40 passes and rank sixth in the NFC. Pre-season acquisition Marv Hubbard provided help in short yardage situations and one-time receiver Leonard Thompson worked well in a brief stint at running back.

David Hill accounted for 465 yards in receiving totals at tight end. He also grabbed two touchdown passes. Ray Jarvis, J.D. Hill and rookie Luther Blue each pulled in a TD for the Lions.

Veteran of 14 pro seasons, Jon Morris, was voted offensive MVP for his steady play at center. He led the squad in minutes played with better than 345. Those on both sides of him had to deal with injury changes and inexperience. Guards Russ Bolinger and Lynn Boden completed second and third seasons in the NFL respectively. Jim Yarbrough and Craig Hertwig went most of the fall at the tackle spots. Among those obtained to replace injured veterans were Gary Anderson, Dave Simonson and Melvin Mitchell.

At quarterback, Greg Landry started 11 of the 14 games, finishing fourth among NFC passers. In his second season with Detroit, Gary Danielson showed some fine promise, earning him starts in the final two games. Veteran Joe Reed spent much of the season in a backup role.

Special teams did an admirable job, at time spectacular, in 1977. A couple of individuals did their best to end the year on a positive note. A week before the season ended, Leonard Thompson blocked a Colt punt in the final seconds at Baltimore and ran it in for a stunning 13-10 Lion victory over the playoff contenders. In the final game, against Minnesota, Eddie Payton, a mid-season add to the roster, put on a fine show for national TV by running both a kickoff and a punt in for touchdowns. The punt return, an 87-yarder, was the third longest in Lion history and longest of the season in the NFC.

A difficult task faces Monte Clark and his staff; a task that will not be completed overnight. Hard work has payed off for Clark before, in the form of two Super Bowl rings. Still more work is ahead. All his energies, as he has said, will be channeled toward bringing the same rewards to Detroit and the Lions.

1977 LIONS STATISTICS

	Lions	Opps.
Total Points Scored	183	252
Total First Downs	218	206
Third Down Efficiency	34.9	35.9
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1706-94	1905-93
Passes Att-Completed	384-191	302-161
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1518-103	1867-103
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	54-441	32-256
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	19-16.8	16-12.9
Punts-Average Yards	101-36.2	86-40.0
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	42-8.2	62-8.6
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	58-21.4	33-22.5
Fumbles-Ball Lost	26-14	32-16
Penalties-Yards	85-734	88-770

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Mike-Mayer	0	19-23	8-19	43
Bussey	5	0	0	30
Kane	4	0	0	24
Thompson	2	0	0	12
Hill, D.	2	0	0	12
Payton	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
King	155	521	3.4	35	1
Kane	124	421	3.4	35	4
Bussey	85	338	4.0	31	4
Hubbard	38	150	4.0	16	1
Landry	25	99	4.0	13	0
Thompson	31	91	2.9	16	1

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Landry	240	135	1359	56.3	7	39	6
Danielson	100	42	445	42.0	5	61	1
Reed	40	13	150	32.5	4	26	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
King	40	238	6.0	30	0
Hill, D.	32	465	14.5	61	2
Jarvis	28	353	12.6	28	1
Hill, J.D.	24	247	10.3	23	1
Kane	18	186	10.3	20	0
Sanders	14	170	12.1	24	1
Bussey	11	116	10.5	39	1

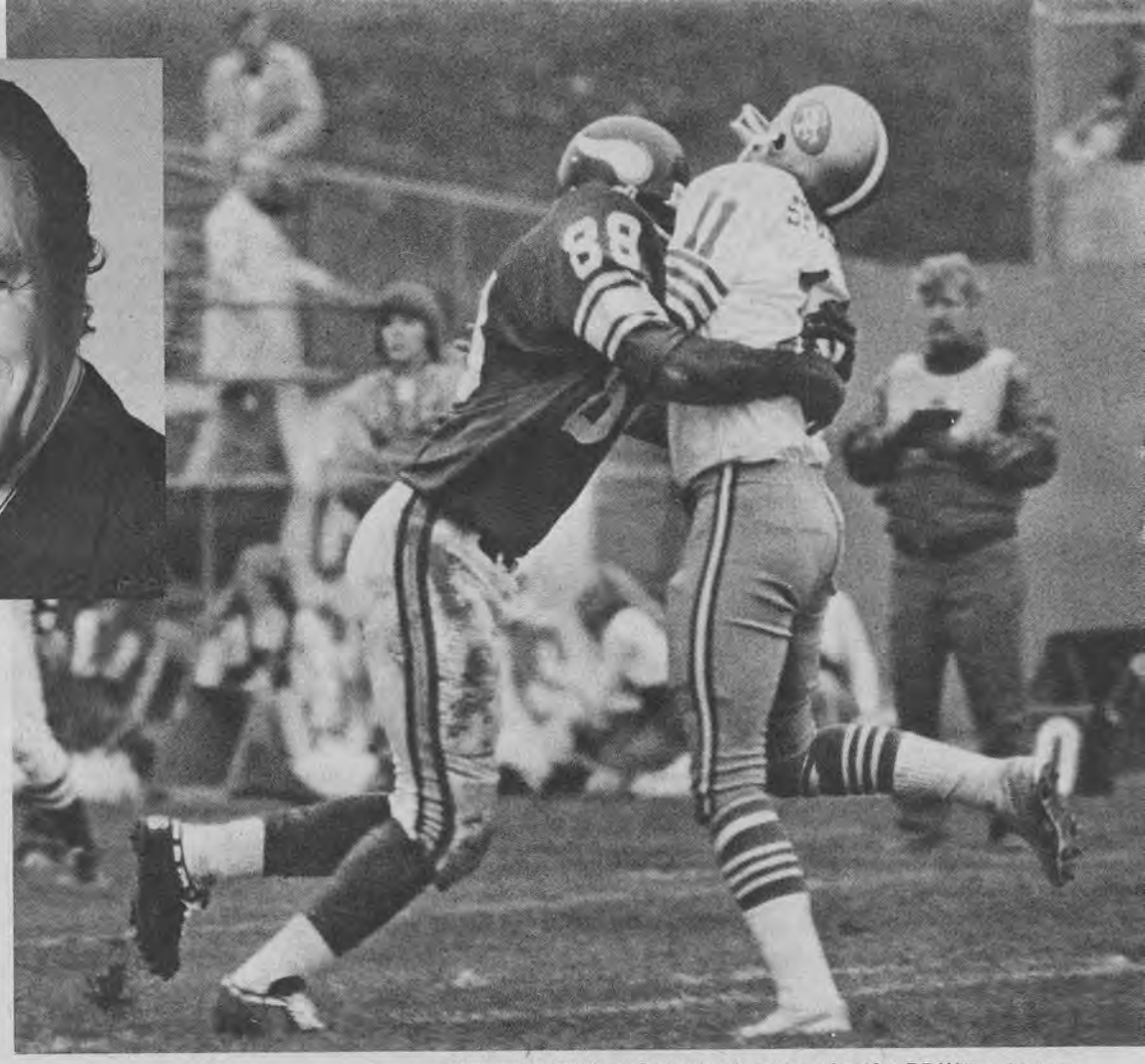
Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Hunter	6	104	17.3	26	0
Barney	3	27	9.0	22	0
Jauron	3	55	18.3	28	0
Pinkney	2	61	30.5	48	1
Johnson	2	51	25.5	32	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Summers	93	3420	36.8	51	1

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Payton	27	0	273	10.1	87	1
Jauron	11	8	41	3.7	12	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Payton	18	457	25.4	98	1
Kane	16	376	23.5	33	0
Bolton	6	86	14.3	26	0

Joe Thomas
Vice-President
& General Manager



Minnesota DT Doug Sutherland reachers for 49er RB Wilbur Jackson.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

O.J. Simpson: Ready to Run for Home Folks

Joe Thomas, the controversial builder of football teams is in full control of the San Francisco Forty Niners and the massive recasting of the Bay Area eleven is in full swing.

The Juice, O.J. Simpson, surgical knee and all, has arrived back home in San Francisco where he grew up.

"I'm ecstatic," said O.J. "I was a Forty Niner fan when I was a kid and I used to dream of leading the Forty Niners to the title. Now I have that chance."

The acquisition of Simpson for a bundle of draft picks was something of a surprise because Thomas usually builds through draft selections. After the Simpson transaction he went to work acquiring more drafts by moving bodies hither and yon.

Running back Delvin Williams went to the Miami Dolphins for wide receiver Freddie Solomon, defensive back Vern Roberson and Miami's first and fifth round picks.

Defensive end Tommy Hart, the leader of the 'Niners Sack Pack of 1976 went to the Chicago Bears for a second round draft pick. And linebacker Dave Washington was sent packing to Detroit for a draft selection.

Thomas obviously was trying to have the better part of both worlds. He unloaded dissatisfied tight end Tom Mitchell to Washington for wide receiver Larry Jones and threw in a draft pick.

Not so genial Joe is already into his third head coach in less than two years in San Francisco. When Edward DeBartolo Jr., bought the team and installed Thomas as GM, a power struggle ensued between Thomas and Monte Clark, the popular head coach, who had led SF to a respectable 8-6 mark in 1976, after 5-9 in 1975. Clark was gassed, and replaced by Ken Meyer, a Los Angeles Ram assistant.

Last year's Forty Niners were essentially Clark's team, but they played with much less intensity and lost their first five games. Despite a soft schedule they finished 5-9.

SAN FRANCISCO'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. MAC AFEE, Ken	TE	Notre Dame
1. BUNZ, Dan	LB	Cal St.-Long Beach
2. DOWNING, Walt	G	Michigan
3. HUGHES, Ernie	G	Notre Dame
4. LE COUNT, Terry	WR	Florida
5. REESE, Archie	DT	Clemson
5. THREADGILL, Bruce	DB	Mississippi State
6. WALKER, Elliott	RB	Pittsburgh
7. QUILLAN, Fred	C	Oregon
9. REDDEN, Herman	DB	Howard
9. MOORE, Dean	LB	Iowa
9. MC DANIELS, Steve	T	Notre Dame
10. CONNELL, Mike	P	Cincinnati
11. MC CRAY, Willie	DE	Troy State
12. IRONS, Dan	T	Texas Tech

Meyer was fired and replaced by Redskins' receivers coach Pete McCulley. McCulley had remained loyal to Thomas during the well remembered squabble in Baltimore between Ted Marchibroda and Thomas, which led the Thomas firing.

McCulley, 46 is an optimistic talking type, who doesn't seem averse to his general manager calling some of the shots and taking much of the credit. He may, however, lose some respect amongst the troops in the trenches, if he doesn't appear to be his own man.

"I feel good about becoming the coach of the San Francisco Forty Niners," said McCulley. I feel I inherited a team with some talent, and I know with Joe around, he will get me even more," said McCulley.

The San Franciscans are basically sound on defense, despite a couple of soft spots in the defensive secondary, and at linebacker, but the attack needs more than just the Juice.

Simpson is 31, and his knee injury and resultant surgery of 1977, causes concern. He says he feels fine and hopes to play three more years. The return to the Bay Area should heighten his interest and help him close in on the 2,129 yards he needs to surpass Jimmy Brown as the leading all time rusher in the NFL.

Thomas traded Williams and kept Wilbur Jackson, a good blocker, who should do for O.J. what Jim Braxton did for him with the Bills.

One Forty Niner under the gun is quarterback Jim Plunkett, who failed to lift the New England Patriots and hasn't impressed in SF, either, although a recurring shoulder problem gives him some semblance of an excuse.

"The place the Forty Niners need the most improvement is in their passing game," said McCulley. You make the big play with a passing game. You win in the NFL with a

1978 49ers SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

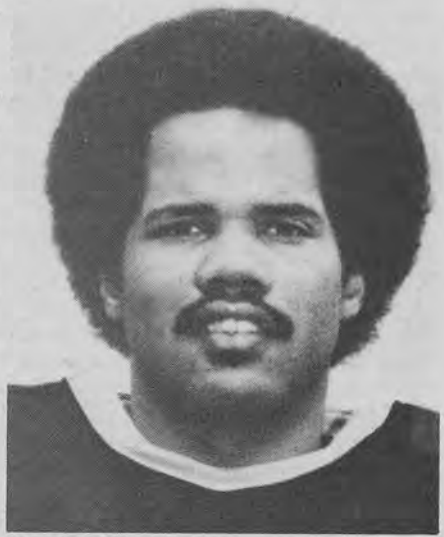
Aug. 5—Dallas Cowboys at Dallas (N)
Aug. 12—Seattle Seahawks at San Francisco (N)
Aug. 21—Oakland Raiders at San Francisco (TV)
Aug. 25—Denver Broncos at Denver (N-TV)

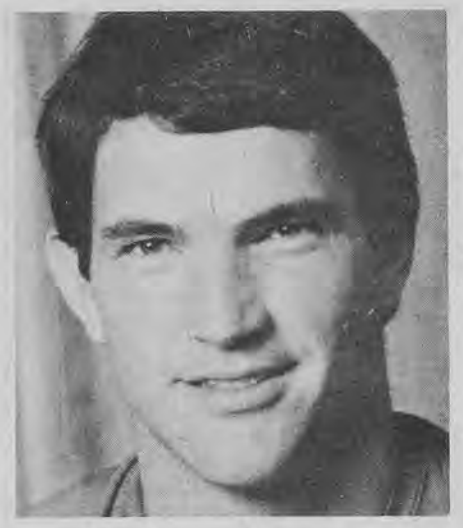
REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Cleveland	O. 29 Washington
S. 10 CHICAGO	N. 5 Atlanta (10-3)
S. 17 Houston	N. 12 ST. LOUIS
S. 24 NY Giants (17-20)	N. 19 LOS ANGELES TV (10-23)
O. 1 CINCINNATI	N. 27 PITTSBURGH N-TV (0-27)
O. 8 Los Angeles TV (14-34)	D. 3 New Orleans (10-7 OT)
O. 15 NEW ORLEANS (20-17)	D. 10 TAMPA BAY (20-10)
O. 22 ATLANTA (0-7)	D. 17 Detroit (28-7)
1977 Record: 5-9	

Willie Harper
Linebacker

Skip Vanderbundt
Linebacker


Greg Boykin
Running Back



Jimmy Webb
Defensive Tackle

Gene Washington
Wide Receiver

passing game. I believe in balance, but I also believe in utilizing the big play when the opportunity presents itself, I want to see some action out here, and although I believe in a hard nosed running attack, I want the big pass play, too."

San Francisco ranked 25th of 28th in passing in 1977. That isn't what was hoped for when the Forty Niners ransomed Plunkett from the Patriots with a whole carload of draft picks three years back.

Gene Washington is still a super wide receiver, but the tight end spot was a disaster with the now traded Tom Mitchell and Jim O'Bradovich handling the post last year. Jones, and Kenny Harrison may help at the wide spots.

Thomas intends to completely overhaul the offensive line. Woody Peoples, the right guard is solid, but could slip suddenly because his last birthday was number 35. The other guard, Steve Lawson, doesn't impress. Tackles Jean Barrett and Keith Farnhorst are promising, but played better two years ago than in 1977. Youngsters John Ayers and Johnny Miller are the reserves.

The Forty Niner defense was a surprising third in the NFL last year, but has already been ripped asunder by Thomas trade of Hart to Chicago for a draft. This breaks up the Gold Rush line of ends Cedrick Hardman and Hart, along with tackles Jimmy Webb and Cleveland Elam. They have a record which indicated they were hard to move against on the ground and also were able to exert considerable pressure on a passer.

Thomas also wants to move some of his linebacking crew of Skip Vanderbundt, and Willie Harper on the outside and Bruce Elia in the middle.

The secondary is a definite problem. The 'Niners had an incredibly low 8 interceptions last year. Youthful Bruce Rhodes, a big play sensation on special teams two years ago, but on the injured list last year, might bounce back. Returning corners are Tony Leonard and Bruce Taylor. The safeties were Mel Phillips and Ralph McGill. Thomas swapped McGill to New Orleans for runningback Greg Boykin. McGill must be replaced.

Punter Tom Wittum doesn't help. Since Thomas believes that kicking decides one third of all games, look for a change in this department. Ray Wersching, picked up in mid-year, did pretty well as Bruce Gossett's replacement as the placement man.

Thomas wheeling and dealing, plus a return to form of Simpson might catapult the Forty Niners to second in the NFC West, behind Los Angeles and ahead of Atlanta. ●

1977 49ers STATISTICS

	49ers	Opps.
Total Points Scored	220	260
Total First Downs	220	220
Third Down Efficiency	41.0	36.9
Yards Rushing -1st Downs	2086-126	1869-107
Passes Att-Completed	277-136	270-139
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1508-81	1589-93
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	36-289	42-359
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	8-16.6	17-17.5
Punts-Average Yards	80-35.0	86-37.5
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	48-6.1	47-9.4
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	49-24.0	47-21.8
Fumbles-Ball Lost	27-8	20-10
Penalties-Yards		

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Williams, Del	9	0	0	54
Wersching	0	23-23	10-17	53
Jackson	7	0	0	42
Washington, Gene	5	0	0	30

Rushing	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TDs
Williams, Del	268	931	3.5	40	7
Jackson	179	780	4.4	80	7
Ferrell	41	160	3.9	12	1
Hofer	34	106	3.1	10	0
Plunkett	28	71	2.5	9	1

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Plunkett	248	128	1693	51.6	14	47	9
Bull	24	7	89	29.2	2	26	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Washington, G.	32	638	19.9	47	5
Jackson	22	169	7.7	24	0
Williams, Del	20	179	9.0	17	2
Mitchell, T.	19	226	11.9	31	0
Harrison	15	217	14.5	46	1
Seal	13	230	17.7	47	1

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Washington, D.	2	68	34.0	50	0
Phillips	2	23	11.5	23	0

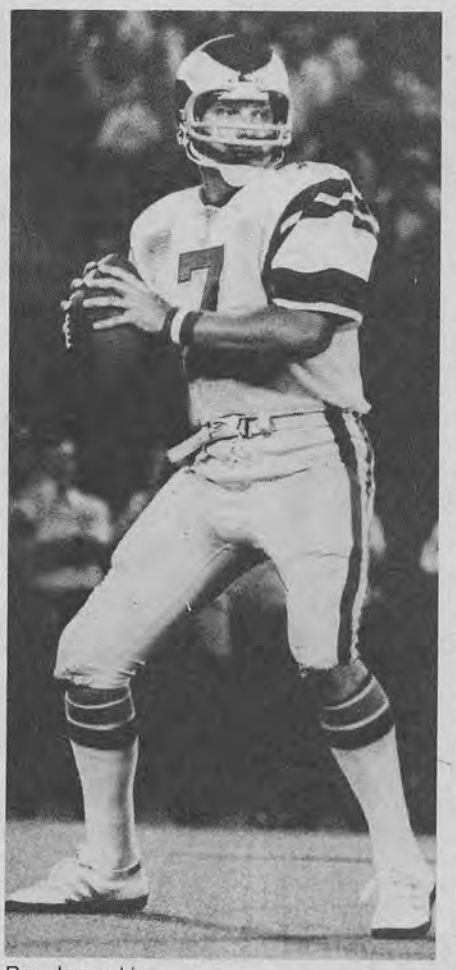
Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Wittum	77	2801	36.4	54	3

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Leonard	22	2	154	7.0	19	0
Black	13	1	38	2.9	11	0
Jennings	7	0	32	4.5	13	0
Rivera	3	0	7	2.3	3	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Hofer	36	863	23.9	48	0
Williams, Dave	5	131	26.2	80	1
Jennings	3	60	20.0	24	0
Ferrell	3	35	11.6	17	0

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

1978 Sked: Pokes, Dolphs, Rams, Colts, Pats, Vikes



Ron Jaworski
Quarterback

All-Pro middle linebacker Bill Bergey doing what he does best—tackling an opponent. He has led Philadelphia tacklers since '74.

NFL Closeup: Dick Vermeil

Pro Career: Beginning his 3rd season as the Eagles' head coach after serving previously as an NFL assistant at Los Angeles under George Allen (1969), Tommy Prothro (1971-72), and Chuck Knox (1973). Dick did not play professional football. Overall Eagles' Record: 9-19.

Background: Played his college football at Napa (Cal.) Junior College and at San Jose State, where he earned a Master's degree in physical education in 1959. He coached on the high school level in California from 1960 through 1962 before moving on to San Mateo Junior College as an assistant coach in 1963. The following year he became head coach at his alma mater, Napa College. In 1965 he moved to the major college ranks as an assistant to John Ralston at Stanford, then joined Tommy Prothro's staff at UCLA in 1970 after one year (1969) as George Allen's special teams coach with the Rams. Vermeil became head coach at UCLA in 1974 and won the Rose Bowl a year later witha 23-10 upset of Ohio State. His two year record with the Bruins was 15-5-3.

Personal: A native Californian, he was born in Calistoga in the Napa Valley on October 30, 1936. He was a four sport star at Calistoga High School. He and his wife, Carolyn, reside in the Philadelphia suburb of Bryn Mawr. They have three children: Richard, 20; David, 18; and Nancy, 17.

On their way to the Super Bowl championship last year, one of the Dallas Cowboys' more dubious rewards was the inheritance of a 1978 schedule that may be the toughest in football. Lesser known outside of Philadelphia is that the Eagles, by virtue of their tie for 4th place finish in the NFC East, will challenge that same formidable schedule in the third year of Dick Vermeil's continuing rebuilding program.

In addition to the annual home and home wars with divisional rivals Dallas, Washington, St. Louis and the Giants, that means demanding contests against Miami, Los Angeles, Baltimore, New England, Minnesota, Green Bay, New Orleans and the New York Jets. Perhaps that's why Vermeil must temper some of the enthusiasm he feels after a season that saw his young team emerge as one of the most improved in football.

"I think we're going to be a better football team though

1978 EAGLES SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

July 29—Miami Dolphins at Canton, Ohio (TV)
Aug. 5—New Orleans Saints at Mexico City
Aug. 14—Houston Oilers at Houston Astrodome (N)
Aug. 19—Atlanta Falcons at Atlanta (N)
Aug. 25—New York Jets at Philadelphia (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 LOS ANGELES (0-20)	**O. 29 ST. LOUIS (17-21)**
S. 10 Washington (17-23)	**N. 5 GREEN BAY**
S. 17 New Orleans (28-7)	**N. 12 NY JETS (27-0)**
S. 24 MIAMI	**N. 19 NY Giants (28-10)**
O. 1 Baltimore	**N. 26 St. Louis (16-21)**
O. 8 New England (6-14)	**D. 3 Minnesota**
O. 15 WASHINGTON (14-17)	**D. 10 DALLAS (10-16)**
O. 22 Dallas (14-24)	**D. 17 NY GIANTS (17-14)**
1977 Record: 5-9	

Stan Walters
Tackle

Wilbert Montgomery
Running Back

I'm realistic enough to believe that it will be hard to show it in the win-loss record because of the schedule," Vermeil says. "It's going to be tough because we'll be playing 11 winning teams and we haven't beaten a winning team in the two years that I've been here.

"But I think before we're ever going to be successful in Philadelphia we're going to have to start beating those kinds of teams anyway. Last year we won 5 and lost 9 and four or five of those losses could easily have been wins. What we have to do is turn some of those around."

Eight of last year's losses were suffered by an average of only 5.7 points per game and the Eagles were actually within striking distance in the 4th period in 13 of their 14 games. To turn some of those tough defeats into victories, Vermeil is counting on a defensive performance like he got last year and an improved offense that will rely heavily on emerging young quarterback Ron Jaworski.

The Eagles' first experience with the 3-4 defense was a pleasant one last year as they set a club record for points allowed in a 14 game season. The Birds gave up only 207 points, 7th best in the NFL and second best in the NFC East. Under the direction of defensive coordinator Marion Campbell, the defense tied a club record with 47 quarterback sacks, intercepted 21 passes and allowed only two opponents to score more than 21 points. They key players in the defensive resurgence were inside linebacker Bill Bergey, who just about everyone knows, and defensive end Carl Hairston, who emerged in his second NFL season as an ascending star.

As the right end on the three man line, Hairston was second only to Bergey in tackles with 137 and 9½ quarterback sacks. Left end Manny Sistrunk gives the Birds a strong and steady veteran while middle guard Charlie Johnson was enjoying an outstanding rookie year until knee surgery ended his season after the 12th game. Rookie pass rushing specialist Lem Burnham chipped in with 10 sacks.

Bergey enjoyed what is now considered a typical year for him: a team-leading 183 tackles, four sacks, two pass interceptions and an appearance in his third Pro Bowl game. He keys a solid linebacking corps that also features inside man Frank LeMaster, outside fixture John Bunting and young Drew Mahalic. Bergey praises Bunting as one of the premier outside linebackers in the NFL.

The secondary was responsible for 19 of the 21 interceptions led by free safety John "Deac" Sanders and rookie cornerback Herman Edwards who each recorded six. Strong safety Randy Logan had five interceptions and vet cornerback Johnny Outlaw had two. Edwards, a free agent from San Diego State, had a spectacular rookie season. He played, according to Vermeil, like a first round draft choice after being bypassed by all 28 teams in the draft. Eagles' player personnel director Carl Peterson, who had originally tried to recruit Edwards for UCLA, then signed him to a free agent contract.

The Eagles' offense in 1977 enjoyed improvements in a lot of categories, including points scored and passing touch downs, but Vermeil is quick to point out that a lot more productivity will be necessary if the Birds are to become a winning team this year.

"We have to get up in the neighborhood of scoring 300 points," he says. "We improved in our scoring last year (from 165 to 220 points) but we were so bad in 1976 that there was no way to go but up."

Quarterback Jaworski is given credit for much of the improvement and he also shoulders much of the responsibility for continuing the trend. As a first year Eagle, the "Polish Rifle" threw 18 touchdown passes and scored five

PHILADELPHIA'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

3. WILKES, Reggie	**LB**	**Georgia Tech**
4. HARRISON, Dennis	**DT**	**Vanderbilt**
5. BANKS, Norris	**RB**	**Kansas**
7. MARSHALL, Greg	**DT**	**Oregon State**
9. WILLIAMS, Charles	**DB**	**Jackson State**
11. CAMPFIELD, Bill	**RB**	**Kansas**
12. SLATER, Mark	**C**	**Minnesota**

times himself. He also suffered 21 interceptions but only six of those came during the second half of the season, even though he played most of the way with a broken thumb on his passing hand.

"I think Jaworski is going to make a difference," Vermeil says. "I think he will be more productive and that he will end up getting the ball to our receivers more efficiently. Ron still has a way to go before he's as good as he's going to be but I still think he's going to be a great one. He's the kind of guy that we can build an NFL division championship team with."

Jaworski's favorite target last year was Harold Carmichael, who caught 46 passes for 665 yards and seven touchdowns but still finished up the track in the Pro Bowl balloting. In the past five seasons, the 6-8 wide receiver has averaged 52 receptions and seven touchdowns and has an active streak of 80 consecutive games with at least one reception.

The Birds' second leading receiver was Charlie Smith, who had 33 catches and four scores. Tight end Keith Krepfle replaced Charles Young (who went to Los Angeles in the trade for Jaworski) and enjoyed an exceptional first year as a starter, catching 27 passes with an eye-opening 19.6 yard average per catch with three touchdowns. Like a lot of other Eagles, he appears to have his best football ahead of him.

Also fitting into that category is a group of young running backs, five of whom have two years or less experience in the NFL. The exception is 7th year man Tom Sullivan, a dependable runner who seldom makes a mistake.

Fullback Mike Hogan has led the team in rushing in his first two seasons but nagging injuries have limited his productivity. He gained 546 yards on 155 carries last year but faces a challenge in 1978 from second year man Cleveland Franklin who, at 6-2, 220, may be the fastest player on the squad. He was brought along slowly during his rookie season after missing much of his senior year at Baylor with a knee injury. Jim Betterson, another second year player, turned in some productive efforts at fullback but Vermeil would like to shift him to a halfback spot if possible. If that change occurs, Betterson would find himself in the midst of a competitive battle with Sullivan, third year man Herb Lusk and second year man Wilbert Montgomery.

Lusk, dubbed the "Praying Tailback" because of his habit of kneeling in prayer in the end zone after scoring a touchdown, is an effective 1-formation runner who scored on a 70-yard run last year against the Giants and on a 36-yard pass reception against St. Louis. But perhaps the most explosive back will be Montgomery, a 5-10 speedster from Abilene Christian. He led the NFC in kickoff returns as a rookie and turned in a 103-yard rushing, two touchdown performance when he was rewarded with a starting assignment in the season finale against the New York Jets. The Birds are hoping that he may be the answer in their continuing search for a big play man.

"I'm convinced that it's not so much what offense you run in pro ball, it's who has the ball in his hands that makes the difference in how many points you score," says Dick Vermeil.

The men who rarely touch the ball, the offensive line, will play a large part in determining whether the Eagles increase their productivity. The most prominent among them are left tackle Stan Walters and right guard Jerry Sisemore. No less an authority than the Cowboys' Harvey Martin credits Walters with being the toughest tackle he faced in '77. Sisemore had a season-long ankle problem last year but both he and Walters have Pro Bowl potential. The other returning starters are left guard Wade Key, right tackle Ed George, and center Guy Morriss, who is expected to receive stiff competition from Dennis Franks.

The offensive phases of the special teams are in excellent shape with the return of the NFC's leading punt and kick-off returners. Larry Marshall led the conference in his 6th NFL season, averaging 10.6 yards on 46 returns while Wilbert Montgomery returned 23 kicks for 619 yards, an average of 26.9 and a 99-yard touchdown.

Punter Spike Jones slumped in mid-season but finished strong, averaging 37.2 yards per punt with 23 inside the opponents' 20-yard line. Nick Mike-Mayer, a former Pro Bowler at Atlanta, was the third and most consistent kicker the Eagles used last year. Acquired for the final three games of the season, he kicked three field goals in as many attempts and all seven point after tries to entris to entrench himself as the Birds' number one returnee at his position. ●

1977 EAGLES STATISTICS

	Eagles	Opps
Total Points Scored	220	207
Total First Downs	211	216
Third Down Efficiency	37.4	37.8
Yards Rushing—1st Downs	1719-98	1917-95
Passes Att—Completed	349-167	358-183
Yards Passing—1st Downs	1856-100	1876-106
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	47-342	47-316
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	21-14.3	21-12.1
Punts-Average Yards	95-36.5	91-38.7
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	50-10.4	45-5.4
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	45-24.7	47-20.0
Fumbles-Ball Lost	30-16	26-13
Penalties-Yards	78-642	85-703

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Carmichael	7	0	0	42
Jaworski	5	0	0	30
Muhlmann	0	17-19	3-8	26
Smith	4	0	0	24
Krepfle	3	0	0	18
Lusk	3	0	0	18
Montgomery	3	0	0	18
Mike-Mayer	0	7-7	3-3	16
Sullivan	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Hogan	155	546	3.5	19	0
Sullivan	125	363	2.9	14	0
Betterson	62	233	3.8	17	1
Lusk	52	229	4.4	70	2
Montgomery	45	183	4.1	27	2
Jaworski	40	124	3.1	44	5

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Jaworski	346	166	2183	48.0	21	55	18
Gabriel	3	1	15	33.3	0	15	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Carmichael	46	665	14.5	50	7
Smith	33	464	14.1	32	4
Krepfle	27	530	19.6	55	3
Sullivan	26	223	8.6	30	2
Hogan	19	118	6.2	51	1

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Sanders	6	122	20.3	45	0
Edwards	6	9	1.5	6	0
Logan	5	124	24.8	45	0
Outlaw	2	41	20.5	38	0
Bergey	2	4	2.0	4	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Jones	93	3463	37.2	68	2

Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Marshall	46	5	489	10.6	48	0
Henry	2	0	25	12.5	22	0
Mitchell	2	0	4	2.0	4	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Montgomery	23	619	26.9	99	1
Marshall	20	455	22.8	44	0

Packer safeties Johnnie Gray and Steve Luke join forces to stop on-coming Atlanta Falcon ball-carrier in contest at Green Bay.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Planning Sessions Continue on Lombardi Avenue

Bart Starr
Head Coach

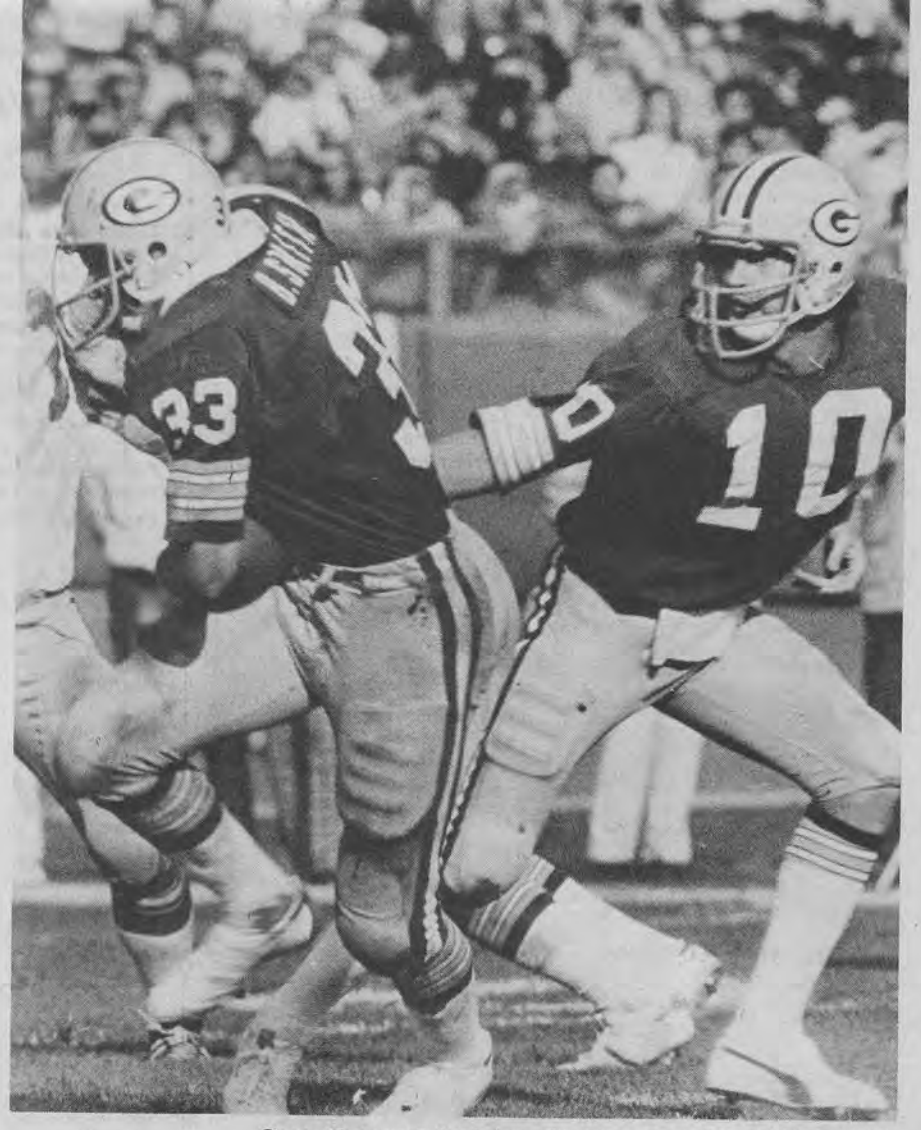
Last year the Green Bay Packers slipped to a 4-10 mark in the NFC Central Division, in Bart Starr's third year, yet there is unbounded optimism and enthusiasm about the quality foundations that were established, which will yield greater dividends in time.

The factors which promote the positive feelings are sev eral. First of all, the two #1 draft choices of 1977, DE Mike Butler and DE Ezra Johnson lived up to the Packers' expectations. Butler started all 14 games, while Johnson gained valuable experience in reserve, while greatly adding to the pass rush. In addition second year DE Bob Barber began paying dividends as well. All are fine pass rushers; big, young, and aggressive. All will be around for a long, long time, plus Johnson can play linebacker as well.

The offensive line under Bill Curry showed ample proof of having come of age near the end of the 1977 campaign. Youngsters Mark Koncar (2nd year), Mel Jackson (2nd year), Greg Koch (1st year), Darrel Gofourth (1st year) and Larry McCarran (5th year) all lend to this optimism, plus Dick Himes is still steady at RT. On injured reserved

STEVE ODOM WR

BARTY SMITH RB



Green Bay quarterback Lynn Dickey hands off to RB Barty Smith.

are first year men Rick Scribner and Gerald Skinner, while veteran Dennis Havig returned to health later in the season to solidify the LG position shared with 2nd year man Steve Knutson. In short, the offensive line, once a subject of considerable concern, took giant strides towards the level necessary to make the offense function competitively.

At quarterback, rookie David Whitehurst (D #8 from Furman) stepped into a serious void caused by the loss of Lynn Dickey to a broken leg in game #9, and surpassed the fondest hopes of Packer fans. His mobility, strong arm and leadership will all help him contend for starting status in 1978, and will provide the team with greater quality depth at the vital post of quarterback. Dickey is expected to be totally healthy, and in his eighth year, still has many more years of potential ahead of him.

At runningback, Fullback Barty Smith and Halfback Eric Torkelson will be backed up by a group of speedsters in 4th year man Willard Harrell and 2nd year blazers Nate Simpson, Terdell Middleton and Jim Culbreath. All are owners of game breaking speed, a luxury that the Packers have seldom experienced.

In the secondary, a group that calls itself SWAT patrols, Safeties John Gray (see cover) and Steve Luke play with a special intimidating style, while corners Mike McCoy and Willie Buchanon both are hard-nosed hitters. Luke and Gray will be entering their 4th year, while McCoy will be in his third, after starting and leading the unit in interceptions last year. Buchanon, the most veteran of the group and a Pro Bowl participant, will be in his seventh season. With its youth and enthusiasm, the secondary is already a steady force which will only improve with experience.

All of these areas give the youthful Packers a definite cause for optimism, but there are areas where the draft in May will be especially crucial, due to age, injury, or a drop-off in efficiency and production.

In no special order, these areas are: on offense, a receiver with good size and exceptional speed to concern defenses deep; and on defense, linebackers to offset the possible loss of Gary Weaver, who played out his option in

1978 PACKERS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Kansas City Chiefs at Green Bay (N)
Aug. 11—Washington Redskins at Washington (N)
Aug. 19— St. Louis Cardinals at Green Bay (N)
Aug. 26—Cincinnati Bengals at Milwaukee (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Detroit (6-10)	O. 29 TAMPA BAY
S. 10 NEW ORLEANS-Mil (24-20)	N. 5 Philadelphia
S. 17 OAKLAND	N. 12 DALLAS-Mil
S. 24 San Diego	N. 19 Denver
O. 1 DETROIT-Mil (10-9)	N. 26 MINNESOTA (6-13)
O. 8 CHICAGO (0-26)	D. 3 Tampa Bay (13-0)
O. 15 SEATTLE-Mil	D. 10 Chicago (10-21)
O. 22 Minnesota (7-19)	D. 17 Los Angeles (6-24)
1977 Record: 4-10	Mil-Game at Milwaukee

GREEN BAY'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. LOFTON, James	WR	Stanford
1. ANDERSON, John	LB	Michigan
2. HUNT, Mike	LB	Minnesota
3. HOOD, Estus	DB	Illinois State
5. DOUGLASS, Mike	LB	San Diego State
5. WILDER, Willie	RB	Florida
6. HARRIS, Loetis	G	Arkansas
7. PLASKETES, George	LB	Mississippi
8. SPROUL, Dennis	QB	Arizona State
9. MYERS, Keith	QB	Utah State
10. KEY, Larry	RB	Florida State
10. TOTTEN, Mark	C	Florida
11. JONES, Terry	DT	Alabama
12. RAMSON, Eason	TE	Washington State

WILLARD HARREL RB/KR

DAVID BEVERLY P

February, and the encroaching years on MLB Jim Carter and RLB Fred Carr.

On the positive side of the linebacker situation, Carter enjoyed his first healthy year in the past 3, leading the Packers defense in tackles and according to linebacker Coach John Meyer, had his best year since being named to the Pro Bowl in 1972. Fred Carr, meanwhile, started his 140th consecutive game to close out the '77 campaign, and shows no signs of slowing down. Fred, who serves as defensive captain, is also a veteran of Pro Bowl action, a distinction shared by few of today's Packers. In 1978, should the Packers defensive coordinator Dave Hanner opt for the 3-4 defense in certain situations, or as a steady diet, the fleet Ezra Johnson, who sports 4.6 speed in the 40 and holds most Packer agility drill records, is always available at either defensive end or linebacker. Opponents will not know until the snap of the ball which position Johnson will play, which should serve as an unsteadying factor.

The receiving corps of Rich McGeorge at Tight End, and Steve Odom and Ollie Smith, Wide, accounted for 36% of the receptions, and only 4 TD's, yet Smith averaged 16.2 yards per catch, while Odom garnered 16.3. In all the Packer passing game accounted for but 6 touchdowns, which serves to illustrate the need for a receiver(s) to light the scoreboard.

Special team excellence has been a trademark of Bart Starr coached teams in Green Bay and last year's squad was no exception. David Beverly, punting in difficult weather conditions, late in the year, still averaged 39.4 yards per kick while netting a highly respectable 34.1 yards to finish near the top of league standings again in 1977.

Chester Marcol, also plagued by quagmire conditions, was second in the NFC percentage with a .619 mark in field goals.

Both will be back, and barring injury, both appear to have lengthy and productive careers ahead of them. ●

1977 PACKERS STATISTICS

	Packers	Opps.
Total Points Scored	134	219
Total First Downs	196	259
Third Down Efficiency	31.6	39.0
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1464-82	2317-139
Passes Att-Completed	327-164	319-186
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1748-91	1725-105
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	32-265	37-323
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	13-6.8	21-16.6
Punts-Average Yards	86-39.4	73-37.4
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	38-8.4	53-5.9
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	51-18.6	39-20.1
Fumbles-Ball Lost	24-9	28-11
Penalties-Yards	82-690	101-852

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Marcol	0	11-14	13-21	50
Odom	3	0	0	18
Smith, B.	3	0	0	18
Harrell	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Smith, B.	166	554	3.3	11	2
Torkelson	103	309	3.0	29	1
Simpson	60	204	3.4	40	0
Harrell	60	140	2.3	9	1
Middleton	35	97	2.8	16	0
Whitehurst	14	55	3.9	19	1
Culbreath	12	51	4.3	18	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Dickey	220	113	1346	51.4	14	95	5
Whitehurst	105	50	634	47.6	7	48	1

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Smith, B.	37	340	9.2	42	1
Odom	27	441	16.3	95	3
Smith, O.	22	357	16.2	41	0
Harrell	19	194	10.2	48	0
McGeorge	17	142	8.4	18	1
Torkelson	11	107	9.7	14	0
Vataha	10	109	10.9	32	0
Payne	7	99	14.1	45	1

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Luke	4	9	2.3	7	0
McCoy	4	2	0.5	2	0
Buchanon	2	41	20.5	29	1

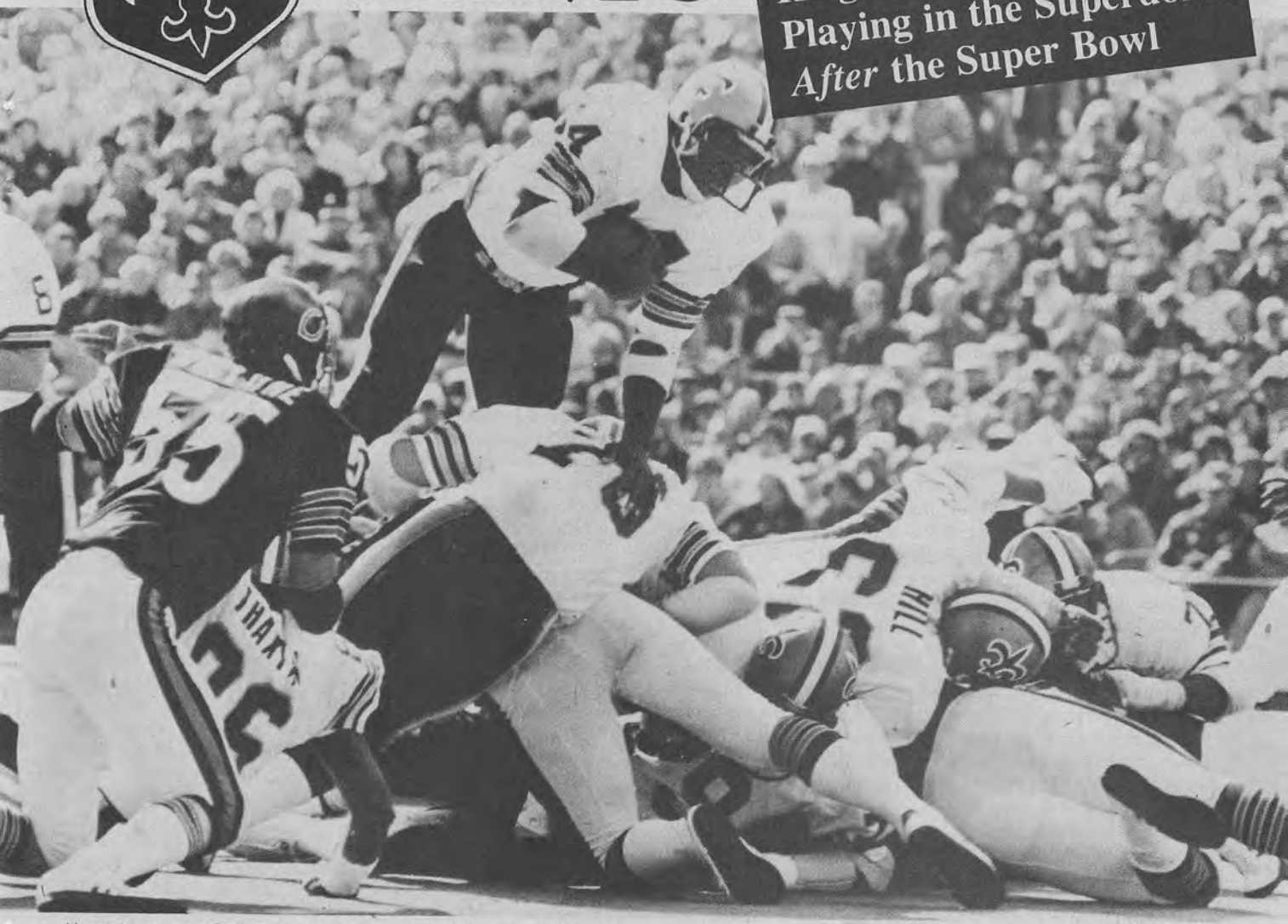
Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Beverly	85	3391	39.9	59	1

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Harrell	28	9	253	9.0	75	1
Gray	10	3	68	6.8	24	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Odom	23	468	20.3	37	0
Thompson	4	82	20.5	30	0
Culbreath	5	82	16.4	30	0
Wagner	6	62	10.3	20	0

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Height of Frustration: Playing in the Superdome *After* the Super Bowl



Up and over goes QB Larry Lawrence of New Orleans against Bears.

1978 SAINTS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Philadelphia Eagles at Mexico City
Aug. 12—Miami Dolphins at Louisiana Superdome (N)
Aug. 19—Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Louisiana Superdome (N)
Aug. 26—Houston Oilers at Houston Astrodome (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 MINNESOTA	**O. 29 NY GIANTS**
S. 10 Green Bay-Mil (20-24)	**N. 5 Pittsburgh**
S. 17 PHILADELPHIA (7-28)	**N. 12 ATLANTA (21-20)**
S. 24 Cincinnati	**N. 19 Dallas**
O. 1 LOS ANGELES (27-26)	**N. 26 Atlanta (7-35)**
O. 8 CLEVELAND	**D. 3 SAN FRANCISCO (7-10 OT)**
O. 15 San Francisco (17-20)	**D. 10 HOUSTON**
O. 22 Los Angeles (7-14)	**D. 17 Tampa Bay (14-33)**
1977 Record: 3-11	**Mil-Game at Milwaukee**

A man of few words, Dick Nolan isn't talking.

The new head coach of the New Orleans Saints won't predict how many games his team will win in 1978 or venture to say the Saints will become an instant winner after finishing with a 3-11 record in 1977. But the feeling persists that Nolan, a solid coach with excellent credentials, has a team which is capable of achieving respectability in the NFL this year.

The Saints were plagued by inconsistency, close losses and defensive breakdowns in 1977. They beat playoff teams Los Angeles and Chicago. They lost to Tampa Bay. They lost five other games by four or less points. At the danger of feeding the everlasting flame of Saints fans, here are some reasons for optimism in 1978:

—A strong backfield manned by experienced quarterbacks Archie Manning and Bobby Scott and three top runnings backs in Chuck Muncie, Tony Galbreath and Mike Strachan.

—Addition of guard Conrad Dobler and wide receiver Ike Harris from St. Louis to bolster two of the Saints' problem areas.

—Improvement in defense because of Nolan and his career of defensive success as defensive coordinator of the

NEW ORLEANS'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. CHANDLER, Wes	WR	Florida
2. TAYLOR, James	T	Missouri
3. BENNETT, Barry	DT	Concordia, Minn.
4. SCHWARTZ, Don	DB	Washington State
5. FELTON, Eric	DB	Texas Tech
6. RIEKER, Mike	QB	Lehigh
6. CHESLEY, Francis	LB	Wyoming
8. WILLIAMS, Brooks	TE	North Carolina
9. CARTER, Richard	DB	North Carolina State
11. BESAINT, Nathan	DT	Southern U.
11. RILEY, Dave	RB	West Virginia
12. HARDY, Larry	TE	Jackson State

Dallas Cowboys and head coach of the San Francisco 48ers.

Other positive considerations are the return of 1977 injured players—receivers Tinker Owens and Larry Burton and cornerback Maurice Spencer; development of 1977 No. 1 and 2 draft choices, defensive linemen Joe Campbell and Mike Fultz, and the prospect of new talent from a No. 3 position in the first round of the 1978 NFL draft.

QUARTERBACKS: Archie Manning, Bobby Scott. The question at this time a year ago was will Archie Manning ever play football again after two operations to the shoulder of his passing arm.

A true-blue athlete, Manning not only played in 1977 but finished tied for fourth among NFC passers. He completed 55.1 per cent of his passes for 1,284 yards with eight touchdown passes and nine interceptions. He also led NFC quarterbacks in rushing with 270 yards, a 6.9 average and scored five touchdowns. Manning was named NFL "player of the week" for a devastating performance against the Bears at Chicago. He ran for three touchdowns and passed for a fourth to spark a 42-24 victory. Another brilliant game for Archie came against Atlanta when he came off the bench to trigger a 21-20 win at New Orleans.

But there were other days when Manning could not sustain the Saints offense and four weeks on the sidelines recuperating from a sprained ankle. Those four weeks gave Bobby Scott his opportunity to produce two of the best quarterback performances for the Saints. At St. Louis, Scott passed for a career-high 285 yards. The next week he piloted the Saints to a 27-26 upset of Los Angeles at the Superdome.

RUNNING BACKS: Greg Boykin, Tom Galbreath, Kim Jones, Chuck Muncie, Mike Strachan, Jim Van Wagner. If the Saints come marchin' in in 1978, you can count on Chuck Muncie and Tony Galbreath leading the parade. The Muncie and Galbreath Lightning and Thunder tandem enjoyed its second highly productive NFL year in 1977 as the Saints set a new club rushing record of 2,024 yards in 1977.

New Orleans' No. 1 and No. 2 draft choices for 1976 do more than carry the football. Both are excellent pass receivers. Galbreath is an outstanding blocker. Both backs are strong physically and played in all 14 games last year. Muncie, 6-0, 220, set a new Saints individual rushing record and finished seventh in the NFC with 811 yards, a 4.0 average and six touchdowns. He caught 21 passes for 248 yards and one touchdown.

42 Chuck Muncie
RB 6-3 220 24

Galbreath, 6-0, 220, finished 13th in NFC rushing with 644 yards, a 3.8 average and three touchdowns. He tied for seventh and was the No. 1 back in NFC pass receiving with 41 catches for 265 yards. The Saints are fortunate to have a third top back in Mike Strachan. The 6-0, 200-pound four-year veteran rushed for 271 yards with a 4.9 average in 1977. Fullback Kim Jones (6-4, 243) was a standout on special teams. Greg Boykin (6-0, 225) showed promise. Jim Van Wagner (6-0, 202) was acquired on waivers from San Francisco this year.

WIDE RECEIVERS: Larry Burton, Ike Harris, Don Herrmann, Rich Mauti, Tinker Owens, Joel Parker. Of the 166 passes caught by the Saints in 1977, only 48 were by wide receivers. Enter Ike Harris. The new Saint from St. Louis led the Cardinals in receiving the last two years—52 for 782 yards in 1976 and 40 for 547 yards in 1977. The 6-3, 195-pound four-year veteran figures to be an invaluable addition to the Saints.

New Orleans' passing game was crippled in 1977 when Larry Burton, Tinker Owens and Joel Parker were placed on injured reserve before the third game. Burton is the Olympic sprinter and No. 1 draft choice of 1975. Sure-handed Owens was the team's standout receiver during 1977 preseason games. Parker has 6-5 height and 4.7 speed. Into the breach stepped old reliable Don Herrmann. The 10-year veteran caught 32 passes for 408 yards. Rookie Rich Mauti caught four passes while concentrating on blocking and returning punts.

TIGHT ENDS: Henry Childs, James Thaxton. The emergence of Henry Childs as an outstanding tight end was one of the brightest developments for the 1977 Saints.

Previously noted for his blocking, Childs led Saints receivers with 33 catches for 514 yards and scored a club-record nine touchdowns. He topped all NFL tight ends in scoring. He was selected by his teammates as their most valuable player on offense.

Childs, a 6-2, 220-pound five-year veteran, is supported by James Thaxton, also a good receiver. Thaxton caught 16 for 211 yards and one touchdown in 1977.

OFFENSIVE LINE: Conrad and competition are the bywords for the Saints offensive line in 1978.

Guard Conrad Dobler arrives from St. Louis as the instant leader. New Orleans' first all-pro player, Dobler would qualify for King of Mardi Gras if he could help turn a perennial Saints problem area into a plus.

In 1977 the Saints were plagued by pass protection breakdowns which led to 46 enemy quarterback sacks. However, most of the sacks came in packs. During five mid-season games, only five sacks were allowed. In two games against the division champion Rams, only one sack was allowed.

Dobler (6-3, 255) has the credentials as a three-year Pro Bowl starter and catalyst of the outstanding Cardinals front lines. With the Saints, he will be surrounded by a cast of 12 aspirants for the other four starting positions.

The incumbents are center John Hill (6-2, 246), guard Emanual Zanders (6-1, 248) and tackles Don Morrison (6-5, 250) and Marv Montgomery (6-6, 265).

The challengers are centers Lee Gross (6-3, 235) and John Watson (6-4, 244); guards Kurt Schumacher (6-3, 246), Dave Lafary (6-7, 280) and Dave Knowles (6-6, 250) and tackles Dave Hubbard (6-7, 270), Robert Woods (6-4, 259) and Mike Watson (6-6, 275).

DEFENSIVE LINE: The Saints have youth, size and question marks in their defensive line.

The first big question for the new coaching staff is why did opponents run so easily against the Saints in 1977. New Orleans was the second worst team in the NFL defending against the rush.

A second question mark is the recovery of star tackle Derland Moore from knee surgery. The 6-4, 253-pound six-year veteran missed the last five games last year. A third question mark is the development of Joe Campbell, the No. 1 draft choice of 1977. The 6-6, 254-pound end has tools to be an outstanding end, but did not see major action until late last season.

Joining Moore at the tackle position are Mike Fultz and Elex Price. A No. 2 draft choice in 1977, Fultz (6-5, 278) became a starter midway through 1977 and showed good progress. Price (6-3, 265) is a six-year veteran with four years of starting experience.

Other ends with Campbell are four-year veteran Elois Grooms (6-4, 250), who led the Saints in 1977 with seven quarterback sacks during his first year as a starter, and 10-year veteran Richard Neal (6-3, 263), acquired this year from the New York Jets. Neal was a starter and defensive captain. Another tackle is huge Oakley Dalton (6-6, 295), who played in one game as a rookie last year.

LINEBACKERS: Linebacking is a critical position for the Saints.

Led by Joe Federspiel, a powerhouse middle linebacker, the Saints would appear to have enough good personnel to develop a solid linebacking corps. But the same personnel did not play with authority in 1977. Only two interceptions and four quarterback sacks were posted by the group.

Federspiel did his share. Named to one all-NFL team, the 6-1, 230-pound seven-year veteran set a Saints record for most tackles with 157 of which 103 were unassisted. Strong-side backer Jim Merlo, a five-year veteran, contributed 88 tackles, 60 unassisted, and returned an interception 57 yards for a touchdown.

Ten-year veteran Pat Hughes took over the weak side slot when Greg Westbrocks was injured early in the season and made 92 tackles, 64 unassisted.

62 John Hill
C 6-2 246 27

Westbrooks, a speedy four-year veteran, will bid to regain the starting position in 1978 and Ken Bordelon, a 6-4, 238-pound three-year veteran, will challenge Merlo. Backing up Federspiel is eight-year veteran Rick Kingrea, a standout on special teams.

Robert Watts was the No. 3 draft choice of 1977, but did not play because of injury.

The Saints are hoping this will be the lucky seven year for their defensive backfield. For starting their seventh year in the NFL will be three starters—cornerback Ernie Jackson and safeties Chuck Crist and Tommy Myers.

The luck will be evident if cornerback Maurice Spencer is able to return from a neck injury which sidelined him last year. Clarence Chapman replaced Spencer and performed well in his first year.

Despite injuries to Spencer and later Myers, the Saints ranked 10th in the NFL in pass defense in 1977. However, the secondary accounted for only eight pass interceptions.

Crist had a big year and was rewarded by being selected the team's most valuable player on defense. He played strong and weak safety, led the team in interceptions with four and ranked third in tackles with 102 of which 68 were unassisted. He also had three quarterback sacks, nine pass deflections, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

Other safety candidates are Craig Cassidy. Jimmy Stewart and Wade Bosarge.

SPECIALISTS: Two veteran kickers and two young returners give the Saints a solid crew of specialists in 1978.

Tom Blanchard, an eight-year veteran, came out of retirement last year to lead the NFC in punting with a 42.4 average for 82 attempts. He was second in the NFL to Ray Guy.

Four-year veteran placekicker Rich Szaro had a disappointing 1977 with 5 of 12 field goals after a sensational 1976 when he connected on 18 of 23 field goals.

Free agent Rich Mauti was a dependable punt returner. He averaged 7.4 yards for 38 punt returns and 22.5 yards for 27 kickoff returns.

Clarence Chapman did double duty as a starting cornerback and kickoff returner. He finished second in the NFC with a 25.7 average for 15 returns and scored a 92-yard touchdown. ●

1977 SAINTS STATISTICS

	Saints	Opps.
Total Points Scored	232	336
Total First Downs	223	272
Third Down Efficiency	35.3	45.6
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2024-115	2729-153
Passes Att-Completed	321-166	290-154
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1573-96	1860-103
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	46-360	28-277
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	10-8.3	21-18.7
Punts-Average Yards	87-41.0	76-38.3
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	38-7.4	57-10.6
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	63-21.5	45-23.9
Fumbles-Ball Lost	20-10	29-16
Penalties-Yards	86-894	104-972

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Childs	9	0	0	54
Szaro	0	29-31	5-13	44
Muncie	7	0	0	42
Manning	5	0	0	30
Galbreath	3	0	0	18

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Muncie	201	811	4.0	36	6
Galbreath	168	644	3.8	26	3
Manning	39	270	6.9	27	5
Strachan	54	269	5.0	13	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Manning	205	113	1284	55.1	9	59	8
Scott	82	36	516	43.9	8	53	3
Douglass	31	16	130	51.6	3	31	1

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Galbreath	41	265	6.5	30	0
Childs	33	514	15.6	59	9
Herrmann	31	586	18.9	39	0
Muncie	21	248	11.8	35	1
Thaxton	14	211	13.2	41	1
Gilliam	11	133	12.1	23	1

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Crist	4	6	1.5	6	0

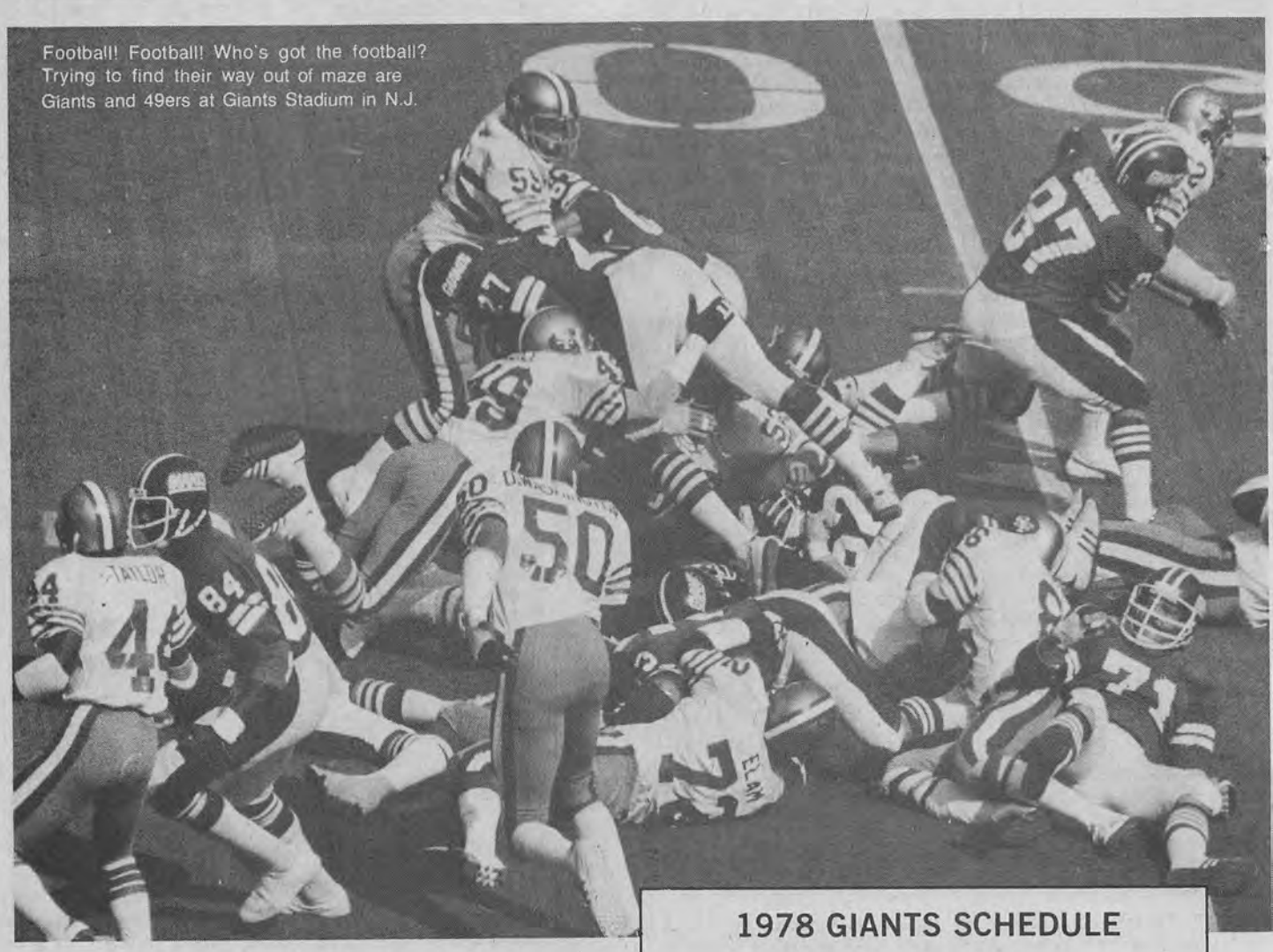
Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Blanchard	82	3474	42.4	66	2

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Mauti	38	10	281	7.4	33	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Chapman	15	385	25.7	92	1
Mauti	27	509	22.5	38	0
Willis	8	148	18.5	27	0
Boykin	5	76	15.2	24	0

NEW YORK GIANTS

They'll Try to be More Offensive This Year



Football! Football! Who's got the football? Trying to find their way out of maze are Giants and 49ers at Giants Stadium in N.J.

A relatively infinitesimal 29 seconds of playing time in the final two games was all that prevented the New York Giants from achieving a 7-7 record . . . not nearly enough for a playoff berth, but a final mark which would have been a vast improvement over the preceding campaign. Despite those final two setbacks (17-14 to Philadelphia with 20 seconds left to play when the Eagles scored on 4th down, and 12-9 to the Chicago Bears on a FG with 9 seconds left in overtime), there was a marked improvement . . . but just as obviously, there is considerable room for even further improvement as the club looks ahead to the 1978 season.

If a massive transfusion is required for any particular segment of the club, it would most certainly be the offense which should be first in line for the big needle. All told, the Giants scored but 181 points in 1977—an average of 12.9 per game—and while that was a slight improvement over 1976, there will have to be considerably more muscle in the 1978 attack if the club is to move.

The Giants rolled the dice at the quarterback position, electing to face the music with three—count 'em—three rookies at that critical position—Jerry Golsteyn, Joe Pisarcik and Randy Dean. As things turned out, Golsteyn was the initial No. 1 choice, but gave way to Pisarcik after three games with the rugged ex-CFL man then going on to win All-NFL Rookie Team honors at quarterback. For the season, Pisarcik completed 103 passes in 241 attempts for 1,346 yards and proved to be not only durable, but a steady learner as well. He also remains as the No. 1 quarterback heading into the 1978 training camp, with Golsteyn and Dean still much in evidence. The former continues to have vast potential, saw action in six games last year and threw

1978 GIANTS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 7—Cleveland Browns at Cleveland (N)
Aug. 12—New York Jets at Giants Stadium, N.J. (N)
Aug. 19—Pittsburgh Steelers at Giants Stadium, N.J. (N)
Aug. 26—San Diego Chargers at Giants Stadium, N.J. (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 2 Tampa Bay N (10-0)	O. 29 New Orleans
S. 10 DALLAS (10-24)	N. 5 St. Louis (0-28)
S. 17 KANSAS CITY	N. 12 Washington (17-6)
S. 24 SAN FRANCISCO (20-17)	N. 19 PHILADELPHIA (10-28)
O. 1 Atlanta (3-17)	N. 26 Buffalo
O. 8 Dallas (21-41)	D. 3 LOS ANGELES
O. 15 TAMPA BAY (10-0)	D. 10 ST. LOUIS (27-7)
O. 22 WASHINGTON (20-17)	D. 17 Philadelphia (14-17)
1977 Record: 5-9	

NEW YORK GIANTS 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. KING, Gordon	T	Stanford
2. MC KINNEY, Odis	DB	Colorado
4. TAYLOR, Billy	RB	Texas Tech
5. JACKSON, Terry	DB	San Diego State
5. KRAHL, Jim	DT	Texas Tech
5. DE ROO, Brian	WR	Redlands
6. PASS, Randy	G-C	Georgia Tech
7. DOORNINK, Dan	RB	Washington State
8. GRADY, Jeff	LB	Florida A&M
9. SWIACKI, Bill	TE	Amherst
10. JORGENSEN, Greg	G	Nebraska
11. HEIM, Dennis	DT	Southwest Missouri
12. LAWSON, Greg	RB	Western Illinois

31-for-70 for 416 yards and a pair of TDs, including a route-going 20-17 victory over the Redskins in the season opener.

A QB also needs some people to catch the football, and in this area the Giants came up with three impressive rookies last season in wide receivers Johnny Perkins and Emery Moorehead and tight end Al Dixon. Perkins (20 catches for 279 yards) has the speed, Moorehead (12 for 143) the moves and running ability, and Dixon (6 for 78 before being injured halfway through the season) the size and strength to become a standout TE. Nifty Jimmy Robinson also adds a dimension with sure hands, the ability to get open and sheer toughness for a guy who is only 5-9 and weighs but 179 pounds soaking wet. Robby has been the leading wide receiver in both of his seasons with the Giants and had a 19.2 average-per-catch mark last season. With this quartet, the Giants have youth, speed, and most certainly, unlimited potential. Yet, improvement is necessary here as well since the Giants scored only six touchdowns through the air last season . . . not a very gaudy total. Not even for a seven-game season.

If the Giants could approximate the sinewy ground game evident in that final 1977 effort against the Bears, then hope would be a a glimmering insofar as 1978 is concerned. In that epic overtime battle against the playoff-bound Bears, the Giants thoroughly attacked the Chicago defense for 252 yards of rushing, with fullback Larry Csonka having pure deja vu that day with a 100-yard effort on 22 carries, and running mate Doug Kotar chipping in with 96 of his own.

Gordon Bell
Running Back

Jack Gregory
Defensive End

Unfortunately, those kind of numbers did not crop up often enough during the year as the Giants finished with but 1,897 yards of rushing for th 14 games. Zonk's final flourish was the only 100-yard day of the year and while the big fullback was pure power on that final afternoon, the fact remains that he finished the season with but 464 yards on 134 carries after undergoing knee surgery late in 1976. If Zonk can sustain that final 1977 effort into the 1978 season at age 31, that would, of course be a huge plus. His blocking abilities remain solid, his competitive intensity equally so. His major complaint last season was that he did not get to carry the football as much as he would have liked to—perhaps a common complaint of running backs accustomed to fondling the football 20 or more times per outing. At any rate, a healthy, happy Csonka doing the things he does best, would be a welcome wallop for '78.

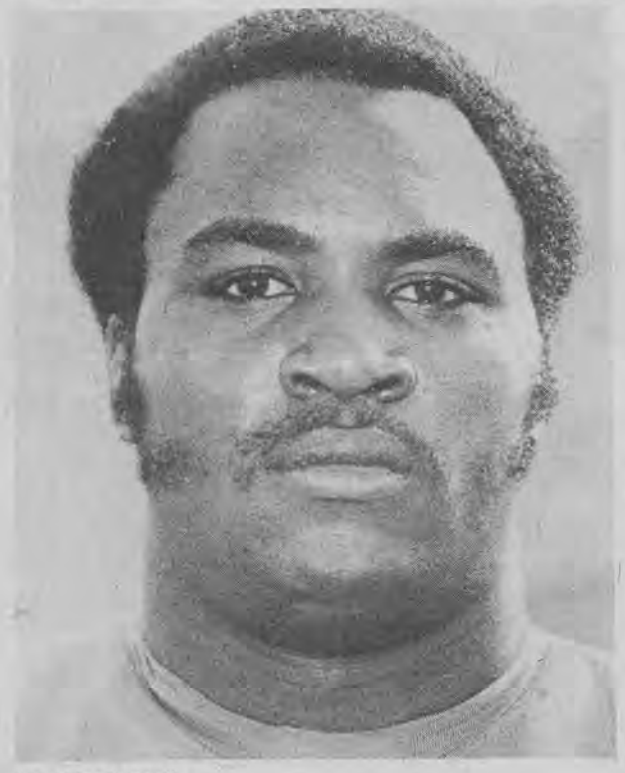
And then there is Bobby Hammond. A second-year free agent running back and just 170 pounds on a slim 5-10 frame, the former Bayside N.Y. High flash did it all last season, leading the club in rushing with 577 yards and finishing as the No. 2 punt return man in the NFC with a 10.4 average which included a 68-yard TD return vs. Dallas, a 63-yarder to set up a TD against the 49ers, and various other exciting returns.

The Giants had no kick about the kicking game in 1977, and with both punter Dave Jennings and place-kicker Joe Danelo young and improving, that phase of the attack is in good hands . . . or feet, whichever the case. Jennings had to punt 100 times last year for a 39.9 average and had 19 inside the 20-yard line. Danelo upped his production to 14-of-23 field goal attempts, including a 51-yarder, and his kickoffs were high enough and far enough to insure good coverage.

The defense for '78? There is also considerable pride prevalent on this unit. With the Bears coming up as the final opponent for '77 and the nation's sporting press

pumping for Walter Payton to break O.J. Simpson's 2,003 yard season rushing mark, the Giant defenders simply snorted that Payton was not about to do his number at their expense. The Bear beauty needed 199 yards rushing in that finale to break the record, but Troy Archer, Harry Carson & Co. promised that Walter the Whippet would have considerable difficulty attaining even 100 yards. And as it turned out, it took Payton five full periods of play to total 47 yards of rushing on 15 carries as the Giant defense swarmed all over him, holding him to minus-5 yards rushing on 8 carries in the first half!! Yes, that's right. The Giants won everything except the game.

Of the five returning veterans on the defensive line, only RE Jack Gregory is in his 30s, and at 33, big Jack is coming off an excellent season. Archer, a potential All-Pro, is but 23, DE George Martin but 25 with three years of experience, and powerful Gary Jeter, a youngster with vast potential, just 22. The other tackle, John Mendenhall, also had a vintage season, and at 29 has others yet to come. The group as a unit registered 38 sacks on enemy QBs, forced 47 fumbles and recovered 20, the



John Mendenhall
Defensive Tackle

second highest total in the NFC behind the Atlanta Falcons.

Strongside LB Brad Van Pelt is but 26 and comes off two straight trips to the Pro Bowl and two consecutive All-NFC designations by the major wire services. Weak-side linebacker Brian Kelley is just 26 with five years as a starter behind him, and the middle man, ferocious Harry Carson, is just 24 with a future that could be awesome. The fourth linebacker is Dan Lloyd, also just 24, and Lloyd's hitting abilities are almost on a par with Carson's. Especially tough on short yardage situations, Lloyd had three enemy fumble recoveries a year ago.

If there is a segment which could use some shoring up for 1978, it would be the secondary. The Giants finished 12th on pass defense in the NFC and the team total of 12 interceptions tied an all-time low for that statistic in club annals . . . and that previous low of 12 took place only a year ago in 1976. In defense of the unit, both corners, Ray Rhodes and Bill Bryant, were starters for the first time in 1977, the former after switching over from wide receiver, and the latter winning a job as a free agent. Both progressed well as the season progressed, and both are fine competitors and good hitters. Safeties Jim Stienke and Clyde Powers were incumbent starters, but had only one interception between them.

Punt and kickoff coverage was generally good, although at times there were breakdowns which caused problems. Opponents returned 67 punts for 680 yards in '77 or an average of 10.1, and that total will have to be reduced for the club to be more effective. The enemy also returned 35 kickoffs for 895 yards, and that average of 25.6 certainly must be reduced. ●

1977 GIANTS STATISTICS

	Giants	Opps.
Total Points Scored	181	265
Total First Downs	201	226
Third Down Efficiency	28.9	34.0
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1897-105	1773-94
Passes Att-Completed	311-134	328-185
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1387-73	2097-110
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	46-375	37-302
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	12-14.9	22-15.0
Punts-Average Yards	100-39.9	88-38.9
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	46-9.7	67-10.1
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	54-19.2	35-25.6
Fumbles-Ball Lost	27-12	47-20
Penalties-Yards	91-880	106-886

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Danelo	0	19-20	14-23	61
Hammond	4	0	0	24
Robinson	3	0	0	18
Spencer	3	0	0	18
Kotar	2	0	0	12
Pisarcik	2	0	0	12
Shirk	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Hammond	154	577	3.7	30	3
Kotar	132	480	3.6	32	2
Csonka	134	464	3.5	15	1
Spencer	62	184	3.0	9	3
Watkins	19	71	3.7	9	0
Bell	16	63	3.9	13	0
Pisarcik	27	57	2.1	14	2

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Pisarcik	241	103	1346	42.7	14	82	4
Golsteyn	70	31	416	44.3	8	47	2

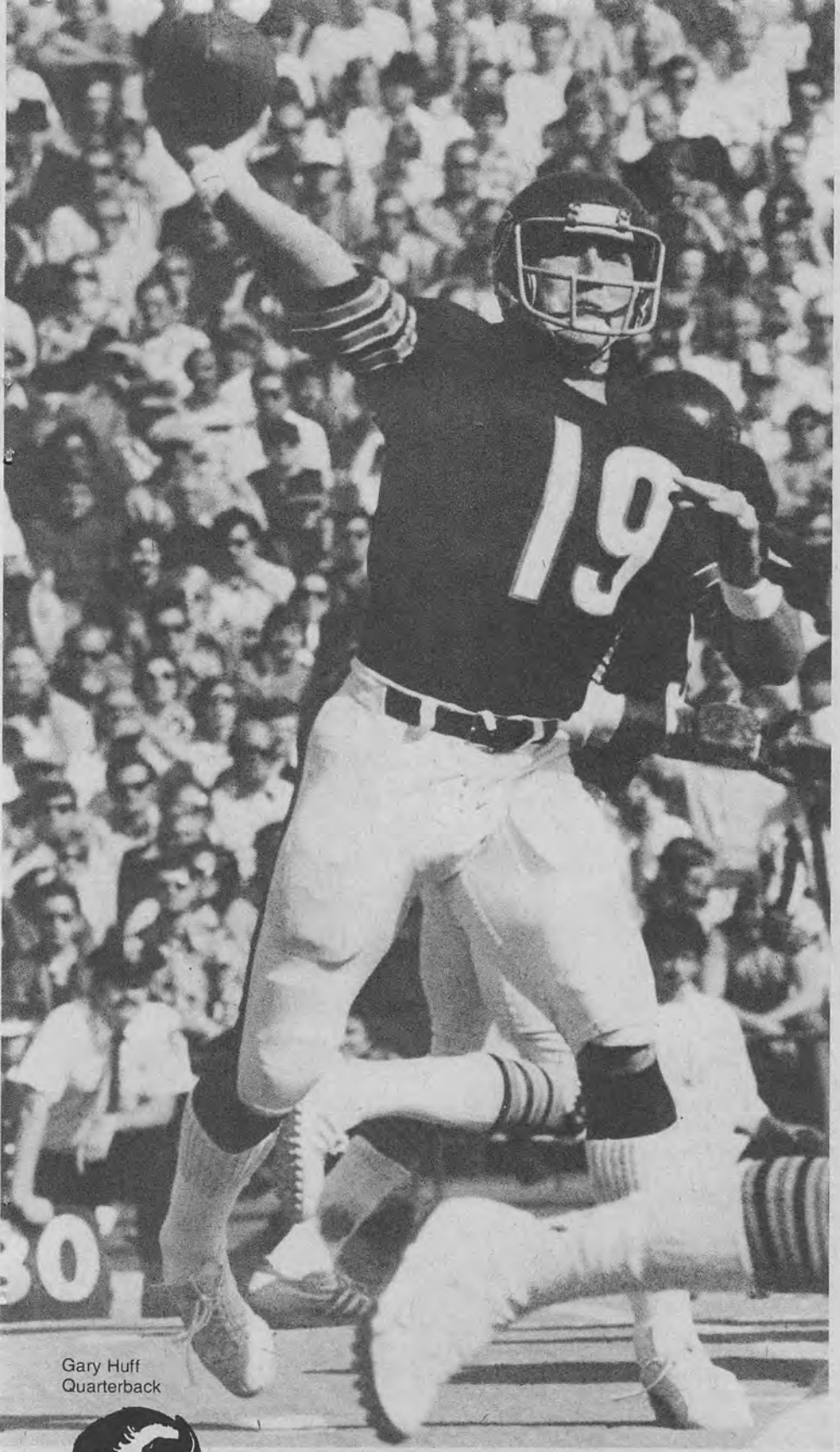
Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Robinson	22	422	19.2	80	3
Perkins	20	279	14.0	54	0
Hammond	19	136	7.2	28	0
Shirk	16	280	17.5	64	2
Kotar	15	73	4.9	13	0
Moorehead	12	143	11.9	20	1

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Bryant	3	54	18.0	54	1
Rhodes	2	59	29.5	40	0
Van Pelt	2	9	4.5	9	0

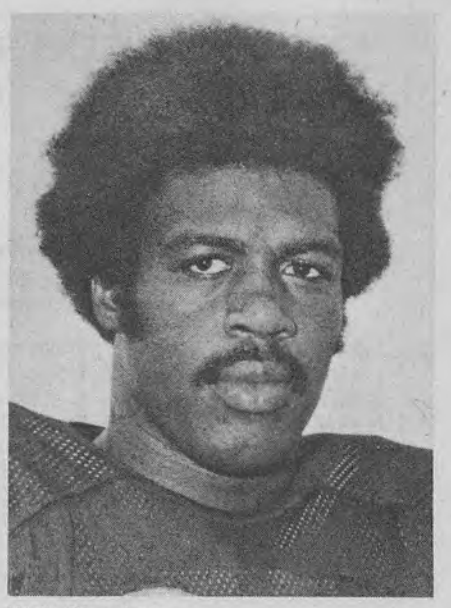
Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Jennings	100	3993	39.9	58	0

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Hammond	32	8	334	10.4	68	1
Robinson	7	5	87	12.4	50	0
Stienke	5	0	30	6.0	13	0

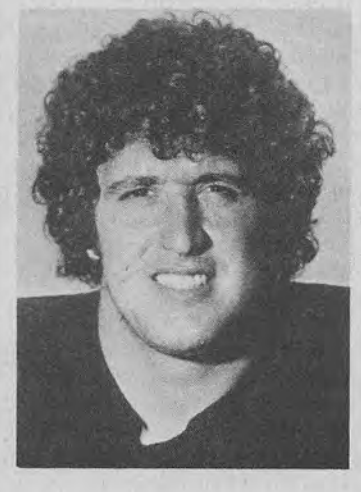
Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Hammond	19	419	22.1	31	0
Bell	12	235	19.6	35	0
Reece	7	159	22.7	32	0



Gary Huff
Quarterback



Wally Chambers
Defensive Tackle



Dave Reavis
Tackle-Guard

John McKay
Head Coach

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Today, A 2-12 Record; Tomorrow, the World!

1978 BUCCANEERS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Cincinnati Bengals at Tampa (N)
Aug. 12—Baltimore Colts at Tampa (N)
Aug. 19—New Orleans Saints at Louisiana Superdome (N)
Aug. 25—Miami Dolphins at Tampa (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 2 NY GIANTS N (0-10)	**O. 29 Green Bay**
S. 9 DETROIT N	**N. 5 Los Angeles (0-31)**
S. 17 Minnesota	**N. 12 Detroit (7-16)**
S. 24 ATLANTA (0-17)	**N. 19 BUFFALO**
O. 1 MINNESOTA (3-9)	**N. 26 Chicago**
O. 8 Kansas City	**D. 3 GREEN BAY (0-13)**
O. 15 NY Giants	**D. 10 San Francisco (10-20)**
O. 22 CHICAGO (0-10)	**D. 17 NEW ORLEANS (33-14)**
1977 Record: 2-12	

61 DEWEY SELMON
DT 6-1 254 22

63 LEE ROY SELMON
DE 6-3 263 21

Dave Pear
Defensive Tackle

Shut out six times, held to a field goal twice, held to one touchdown twice and to one TD and one field goal once, it is little trouble the Buccaneers took so long to win their first game. You can't win without putting points on the board. The Buccaneers began to get the hang of it in late games and have worked on improving their offense since completing their 2-12 season of 1977 with those 33-14 and 17-7 wins over New Orleans and St. Louis.

Coach John McKay was hoping for improvement to the offense, possibly through a pipeline to the Oilers. The Buccaneers landed tight end Jimmy Giles in exchange for the first-round draft rights to Earl Campbell, whom, indeed, the Oilers did pick up. Then the Oilers send Tampa Bay running back Don Hardeman in exchange for running back Anthony Davis, one of McKay's old boys from U.S.C. who just didn't seem to be hitting it off in Tampa Bay. The Buccos also took a chance in a trade with the Bears for defensive tackle Wally Chambers but proved they were thinking of offense in the draft when they picked running back Johnny Davis from Alabama first, and Nebraska guard Brett Moritz in the early going.

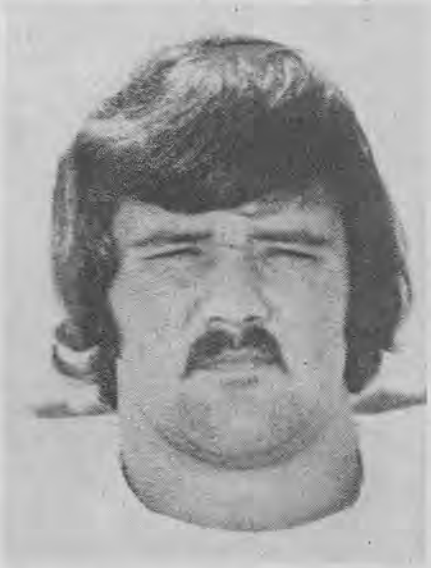
There were some days last year, of course, when the offense got off the ground. One of them was at Seattle, when the Buccos passed for 217 yards, made 22 yards, made first down on six of 12 third down "must" opportunities accorded, rolled for 384 yards overall on offense, and scored 23 points. Seattle, of course, made 30. But Gary Huff had a bit day at quarterback, completing 18 of 32 passes, and Morris Owens caught nine for 166 yards. That was a big day, but not as big as the two days when Tampa Bay actually won. But the lack of offensive punch over the season is underscored by numbers such as: Tampa Bay made only 84 first downs rushing and 69 passing all year, making almost a quarter as many first downs (15) by the penalty as by the pass.

Hardeman, and possibly newcomer Johnny Davis join old U.S.C. grad Ricky Bell in an effort to get that offense rolling. Ricky carried 148 times last fall, gaining 436 yards, tops on Tampa Bay, with a frustrating per-carry average of 2.9 yards. He caught 11 passes. The only other remaining backs who carried much at all were Jimmy DuBose (71 times and 11 pass catches), Ed Williams (63 carries) and Louis Carter (59 rushes, two of them for touchdowns).

Quarterback Jeb Blount had a 234-yard passing day against the Giants but overall he made only 37 of 89 attempts. Randy Hedberg threw for an embarrassing 18.9% completion of his 132 attempts. Mike Boryla missed the entire season with a knee injury. So the holdover quarterback who seems to be in charge is Gary Huff, who was QB on the two days when Tampa Bay won. He completed 48.6% of his 128 attempts, partly because his arm was

TAMPA BAY'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1.	WILLIAMS, Doug	QB	Grambling
2.	DAVIS, Johnny	RB	Alabama
2.	MORITZ, Brett	G	Nebraska
6.	MARSHALL, Elijah	WR	North Carolina State
8.	MC GRIFF, John	LB	Miami (Fla.)
9.	TAYLOR, Willie	WR	Pittsburgh
10.	BROWN, Aaron	LB	Ohio State
12.	MC LEE, Kevin	RB	Georgia



79 STEVE WILSON
OT 6-3 268 22

bothering him and partly because the defensive pass rushes were also bothering him. He got together with Morris Owens for the longest passing play of the year—67 yards—and completed nine in a row against the Packers.

Morris was, by more than double, the leading pass catcher of 1977 for Tampa Bay, taking 34 passes and bringing home three TDs. That was good for a 19.3-yard per-catch average. John McKay plays the other wide spot, catching 12 passes. Wide receiver Isaac Hagins caught 15 passes, but no other receiver, wide, split or tight, caught more than nine. Giles, maybe? Obviously, the aerial arm could use work. Part of the trouble with the offense is the patchwork nature of the line, which uses tackles Dave Reavis and Darryl Carlton, guards Dan Medlin and Jeff Winans and center Steve Wilson at a number of positions as it tries to get its act together.

The defense was coming along at the end of the season, but it has a long way to go. It gave up 223 points, and wasn't able to shut anybody out. But it did hold the opposition on third down 63% of the time. It held the Vikings to nine points and the Bears to 10.

If the Buccos come with a stronger pass rush this year, it may be partly thanks to the addition of Wally Chambers, the old Bear tackle, to go along with Lee Roy Selmon who is developing quickly as a pro. Selmon plays one end of McKay's 3-4 defense. Maybe Chambers will play tackle in a 4-3, if his wheels are okay. Charlie Hannah can help up front if his knee is whole after surgery. David Lewis and Cecil Johnson have been playing the outside linebacking spots in the 3-4, with Paul Harris in reserve. Dewey Selmon and Richard Wood are looking good on the inside. Dewey intercepted two passes last year, and Wood got four, including one that went for six points. Jerris White and Mike Washington play the corners. Washington made five interceptions last year. White got four. Cedric Brown and Mark Cotney have been the safeties. They made three interceptions between them last year, and some speed is needed here, too. The Buccos made 23 interceptions altogether last year, enough to help a bit. But more is needed.

Dave Green punted 98 times for Tampa Bay last year. The longest was 70 yards. That helped him average 40.3 yards a punt. Six slipped into the end zone for touchbacks and Green punted out inside the 20 16 times. All of that made him toe a major offensive thrust for Tampa Bay. He made four of seven field goals he attempted, and five of the six PATs he tried. Earlier in the year, Allan Leavitt made five of 10 attempted field goals and was five for five on PATs until he was injured.

1977 Buccaneers Statistics

	Buccaneers	Opps.
Total Points Scored	103	223
Total First Downs	168	241
Third Down Efficiency	24.4	37.5
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1424-84	2031-124
Passes Att-Completed	321-131	337-190
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1269-69	1895-106
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	48-445	30-246
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	23-16.0	30-14.3
Punts-Average Yards	99-39.9	89-37.6
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	48-7.5	71-6.6
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	43-21.2	33-21.2
Fumbles-Ball Lost	30-16	34-18
Penalties-Yards	88-717	97-716

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Leavitt	0	5-5	5-10	20
Owens	3	0	0	18
Green	0	5-6	4-7	17
Carter, L.	2	0	0	12
Wood	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Bell	148	436	2.9	20	1
Davis	95	297	3.1	35	1
DuBose	71	284	4.0	13	0
Williams	63	198	3.1	14	0
Carter, L.	59	117	2.0	20	2

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Huff	138	67	889	48.6	13	67	3
Hedberg	190	25	244	27.8	10	19	0
Blount	89	37	522	41.6	7	56	0

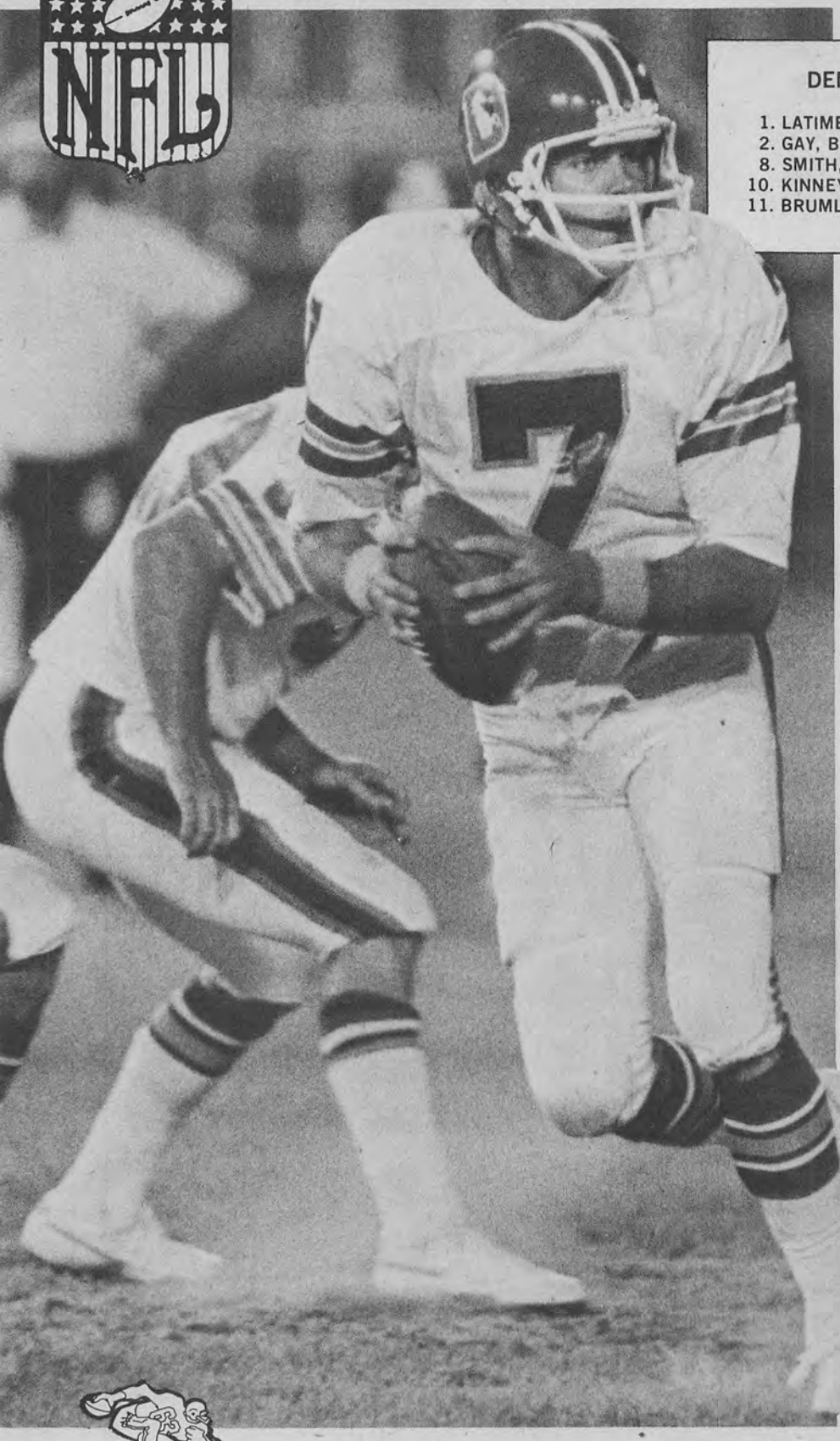
Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Owens	34	655	19.3	67	3
Hagins	15	196	13.1	56	0
McKay	12	164	13.7	26	0
DuBose	11	89	8.1	17	0
Bell	11	88	8.0	23	0
Williams	10	67	6.7	15	0
Carter, L.	10	65	6.5	19	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Washington	5	71	14.2	45	1
Wood	4	86	21.5	30	1
White	4	61	15.3	32	0
Brown	2	66	32.5	27	0
Lewis	2	55	27.5	42	0
Selmon, D.	2	29	14.5	20	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Green	98	3948	40.3	70	1

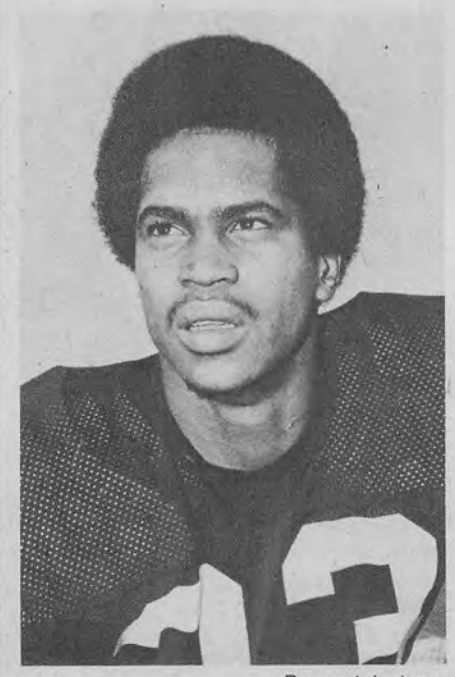
Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Reece	31	2	276	8.9	36	0
Hagins	17	1	85	5.0	29	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Hagins	21	493	23.5	41	0
Davis	15	277	18.5	28	0
Reece	3	72	24.0	34	0
Ragsdale	3	68	22.7	21	0



DENVER'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. LATIMER, Don	DT	Miami (Fla.)
2. GAY, Bill	TE	Southern California
8. SMITH, Frank	T	Alabama A&M
10. KINNEY, Vince	WR	Maryland
11. BRUMLEY, Lacy	T	Clemson



Bernard Jackson
Defensive Back

Craig Morton
Quarterback

DENVER BRONCOS

Orange Crush in Miami's Super Bowl?

Rick Upchurch
Wide Receiver

1978 BRONCOS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Houston Oilers at Houston Astrodome (N)
Aug. 12—Dallas Cowboys at Denver (TV)
Aug. 19—Buffalo Bills at Buffalo (N)
Aug. 25—San Francisco 49ers at Denver (N-TV)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 OAKLAND TV (14-24)	O. 29 Seattle (24-13)
S. 11 Minnesota N-TV	N. 5 NY JETS
S. 17 SAN DIEGO (17-9)	N. 12 Cleveland
S. 24 Kansas City (14-7)	N. 19 GREEN BAY
O. 1 SEATTLE	N. 23 Detroit TV
O. 8 San Diego (17-14)	D. 3 Oakland N-TV (30-7)
O. 16 CHICAGO N-TV	D. 10 KANSAS CITY (23-7)
O. 22 Baltimore TV (27-13)	D. 16 PITTSBURGH TV (21-7)
1977 Record: 12-2	AFC Title Game:
AFC Playoff Game:	Broncos 20, Raiders 17
Broncos 34, Steelers 21	Super Bowl XII:
	Cowboys 27, Broncos 10

Red Miller coached his Denver Broncos into the Super Bowl last season and comes back in 1978 to face a host of skeptics who believe that the Broncs did it with mirrors last season and can not repeat their feat.

As the defending champions of the A.F.C. and the suicidal Western division as well, Denver will face, in fact, a very tough chore to do it again.

"The pressure will be very definitely be on us," defensive stalwart Lyle Alzado admitted during the off-season. Alzado, the defensive player of the year, was one of the major reasons why the Broncos won last season.

Denver compiled a 12-2 record in the regular season to finish atop the A.F.C. West and then won playoff games over Pittsburgh (34-21) and Oakland (20-17) before bowing to Dallas in the Super Bowl. It was the final loss, administered rather decisively by the Cowboys, that left the doubters with plenty of ammunition. It also let the air out of the Denver balloon.

With its "Orange Crush" defense and a fairy tale season by veteran quarterback Craig Morton, Denver had won 14 of 16 games before losing the finale. Two of the defeats, one in the regular season (14-6) and the other in the Super Bowl, came at the hands of Dallas while the other loss came in the rematch against Oakland when the Raiders won, 24-14, at Denver.

Miller's men opened the season with six straight wins before losing the Oakland, including a 30-7 win at Oakland, and then won six more in a row after losing to the Raiders before bowing to Dallas at Texas Stadium. This season, it may not be quite so simple.

There are, of course, some plusses and some minuses for Denver this year. First, there is the minus of having to play a somewhat tougher schedule under the new policy of having the teams with the best records play the toughest opponents the next season. Second, there is the plus of an extra wild-card berth this year due to the expanded playoff format.

"Last year was a fun year," Alzado continued, "people all over the country were rooting for us. They didn't expect us to win, when we did it was all fun and games. This year is going to be different."

For one thing, the attitude of the Denver fans will be different. After three years in which the team was only 22-19-1, the Bronco backers hardly expected what happened last season. They were thrilled and showed it. This season, they have had a winner, a Super Bowl team, a division titlist and a conference champ.

"The people of Denver," Alzado said, "aren't going to settle for less."

But they might have to. Miller, a rookie last season as a head coach, will have his hands full in the powerhouse A.F.C. West. To start with, there is the problem of the Oakland Raiders. If healthy, the Raiders are as good a team as there is around and perhaps the best outside of Dallas. In 1976, Oakland whipped the Broncos twice,

Jon Keyworth
Running Back

Tom Jackson
Linebacker

17-10 and 19-6, even though the Denver record was 9-5.

Over the longer haul of the new 16-game schedule, Denver faces an uphill climb. San Diego figures to be stronger while both Seattle and Kansas City will be tough competition in the division.

Seattle has shown steady improvement as an expansion team and figures to be better on defense for sure this season while Kansas City was in utter collapse last year and provided the Broncos with two easy wins.

Additionally, Denver will be facing alert opponents this season who will be ready to play a championship team rather than the obscure opponent of recent seasons. There will be no gift wins for Denver this time around.

But Miller is ready. "We have to concentrate and direct all our energies to the task each week," he said, employing a dressed-up version of the old coaches' "play 'em one-at-a-time" routine.

Denver sought to shore up its defense by picking Don Latimer of Miami (Fla.) in the first-round of the draft. Latimer is expected to play tackle for the Broncs but may not see much service this season since the defensive unit is one of the best. Last year, yielding only 150 points, had the second-best defense against scoring in the entire N.F.L.

Miller went with the 3-4 all year and the results was just this side of sensational. Up front, the threesome was nose guard Rubin Carter with Alzado and Barney Chavous at tackle. Behind them were Joe Rizzo, Non Swenson, Tom Jackson and Randy Gradishar. This linebacking unit was the best in the league by almost any standard.

At cornerback, the Broncos had standouts in rookie Steve Foley and veteran Louis Wright, now one of the best in the league. At safety, it was ex-Bengal Bernard Jackson (free) and Bill Thompson (strong).

It is the offense that the problems appear.

Morton, of course, is the biggest question mark of them all. He was dealt off by the Cowboys and Giants after being virtually run out of Dallas and New York by booing fans, not to mention frustrated coaches. He produced the season of his life at Denver and has to do it again if the Broncos are to have any chance of even making it into the playoffs.

Now 35, Morton is coming off a season in which he was the No. 2 passer in the A.F.C. Repeating this performance is a tall order and most observers doubt that Morton can do it.

Rob Lyttle, the man rescued from the key fumble against Oakland in the playoffs by the officials, may become the top runner at Mile High Stadium with Otis Armstrong being eased out.

Amongst the receivers, it is Haven Moses and Rick Upchurch who provide the Broncos with legitimate deep-threat potential. Tight end Riley Odoms is also among the best around at his position. With Jack Dolphin also a factor, the receivers are solid.

On the offensive line, things are a bit light and a little thin. Only offensive tackle Claudie Minor, at 280, is really big by pro standards. It is expected that Steve Shindler, the rookie from Boston College last season, will break into the starting lineup this season. But the task of protecting the wooden Morton for 16 games might prove to be too much here.

Veteran Jim Turner remains a pro placekicker and second-year man Bucky Dilts, an all-rookie pick last season, is an above-average punter.

Problems in the offensive line and quarterback may make a playoff berth a real scramble and another championship almost impossible this season. ●

1977 BRONCOS STATISTICS

	Broncos	Opps.
Total Points Scored	274	148
Total First Downs	223	217
Third Down Efficiency	34.2	32.1
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2043-101	1530-77
Passes Att-Completed	314-163	426-235
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1863-107	2244-123
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	50-402	35-312
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	25-19.6	12-14.3
Punts-Average Yards	991-39.2	95-40.7
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	58-12.3	54-7.4
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	34-21.5	50-21.7
Fumbles-Ball Lost	28-15	27-14
Penalties-Yards	91-883	97-718

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Turner	1	31-34	13-19	76
Armstrong	4	0	0	24
Moses	4	0	0	24
Morton	4	0	0	24
Perrin	4	0	0	24
Upchurch	4	0	0	24
Dolbin	3	0	0	18
Odoms	3	0	0	18
Lytle	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Armstrong	130	489	3.8	35	4
Perrin	110	456	4.1	62	3
Lytle	104	408	3.9	21	1
Keyworth	83	311	3.7	16	1
Jensen	40	143	3.6	12	1
Morton	31	125	4.0	15	4
Weese	11	56	5.1	21	1

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Morton	254	131	1929	51.6	8	81	14
Penrose	40	21	217	52.5	4	35	0
Weese	20	11	119	55.0	0	31	1

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Odoms	37	429	11.6	33	3
Moses	27	539	20.0	35	4
Dolbin	26	443	17.0	81	3
Armstrong	18	128	7.1	20	0
Lytle	17	198	11.6	47	1
Upchurch	12	245	20.4	45	2
Keyworth	11	48	4.4	14	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Thompson	5	122	24.4	38	0
Jackson, T.	4	95	23.8	73	1
Wright	3	128	42.7	59	1
Gradishar	3	56	18.7	28	0
Rizzo	3	49	16.3	38	0
Foley	3	22	7.3	11	0

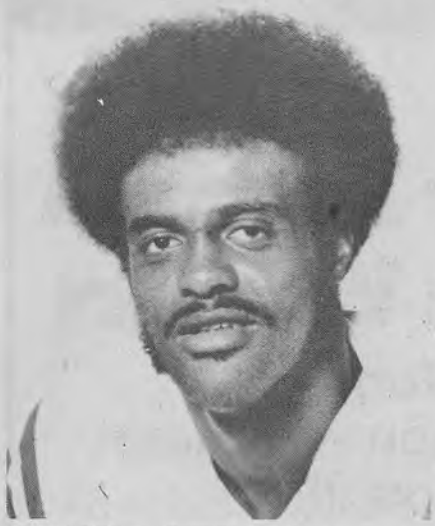
Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Dilts	90	3525	39.2	63	0

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Upchurch	51	6	653	12.8	87	1
Pane	6	2	48	8.0	14	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Upchurch	20	456	22.8	32	0
Schultz	6	135	22.5	33	0
Perrin	3	72	24.0	32	0

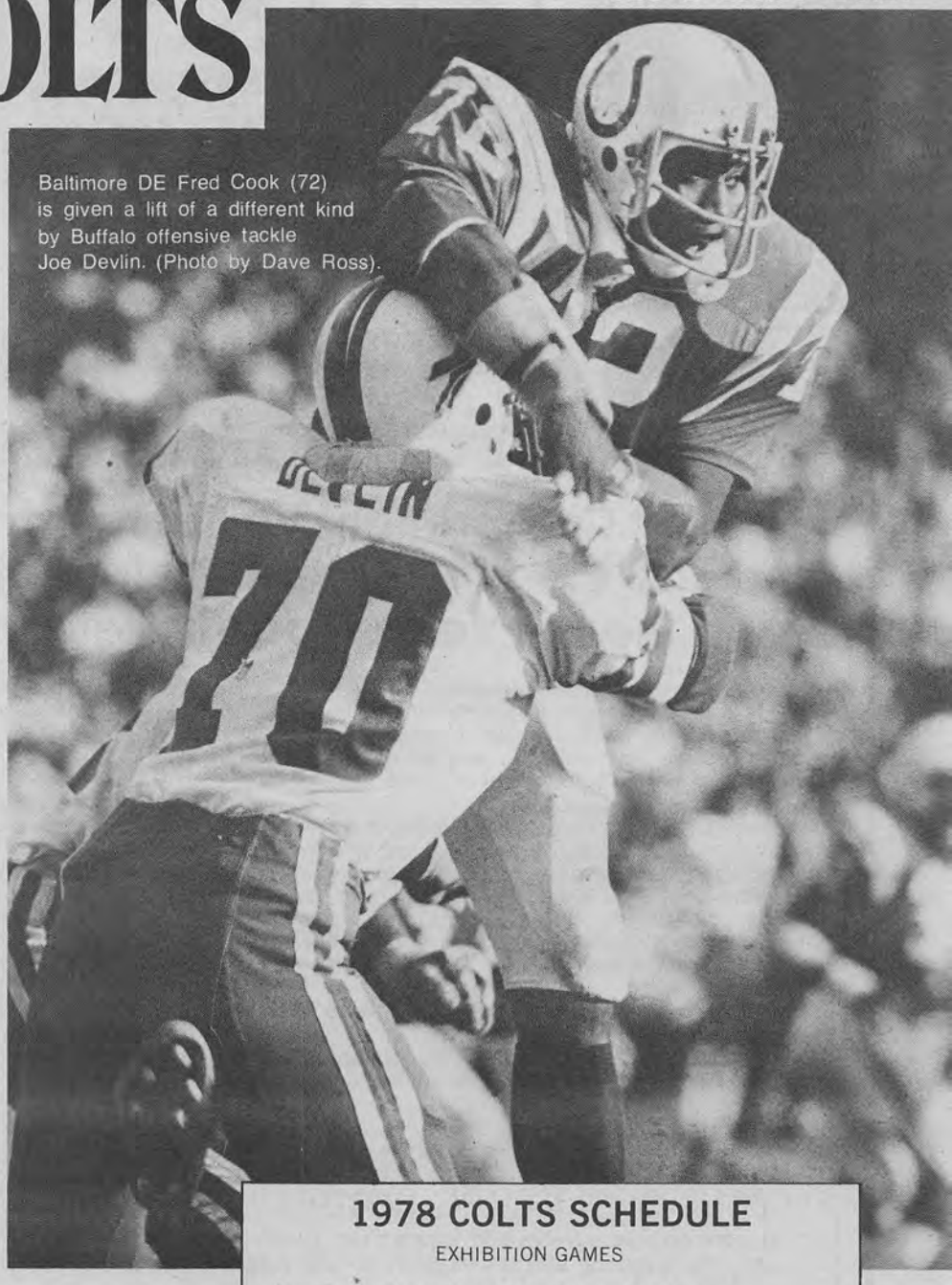
BALTIMORE COLTS

Jones & Co. Aim for Another AFC-East Title



Lydell Mitchell Running Back

Glenn Doughty Wide Receiver



Baltimore DE Fred Cook (72) is given a lift of a different kind by Buffalo offensive tackle Joe Devlin. (Photo by Dave Ross).

Baltimore head coach Ted Marchibroda has these observations on the 1978 season as the Colts set their sights on their fourth straight AFC-Eastern title and, hopefully, the goals beyond:

Schedule: I think that we have an extremely tough schedule this year. I feel that the schedule is somewhat more equitable which makes me feel better. New England, Miami and Baltimore will be playing a similar schedule and there will be no such thing as an easy schedule this season. It is a tough schedule because we play both Super Bowl teams, the Dallas Cowboys and the Denver Broncos. We also play Pittsburgh and they are in my mind a definite Super Bowl contender. We are in a tough division having to play New England, and Miami twice. Buffalo, I feel will be an improved team due to Chuck Knox and Walt Michaels did an excellent job in New York with the

(Continued on page 68)

1978 COLTS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Pittsburgh Steelers at Baltimore (N)
Aug. 12—Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Tampa (N)
Aug. 18—Washington Redskins at Baltimore (N)
Aug. 26—Detroit Lions at Pontiac Silverdome (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 4 Dallas N-TV
S. 10 MIAMI TV (45-28)
S. 18 New England N-TV (3-17)
S. 24 Buffalo (31-13)
O. 1 PHILADELPHIA
O. 8 St. Louis
O. 15 NY JETS (33-12)
O. 22 DENVER TV (13-27)
1977 Record: 10-4

O. 29 Miami TV (6-17)
N. 6 WASHINGTON N-TV (10-3)
N. 12 Seattle (29-14)
N. 19 CLEVELAND
N. 26 NEW ENGLAND TV (30-24)
D. 3 NY Jets (20-12)
D. 9 Pittsburgh TV (31-21)
D. 17 BUFFALO (17-14)
AFC Playoff Game:
Raiders 37, Colts 31 OT

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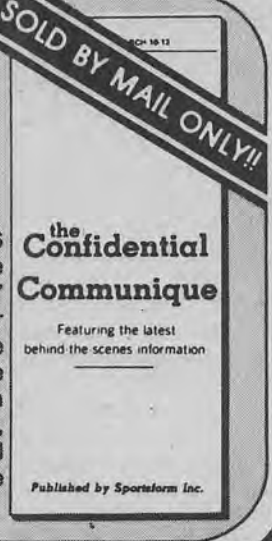

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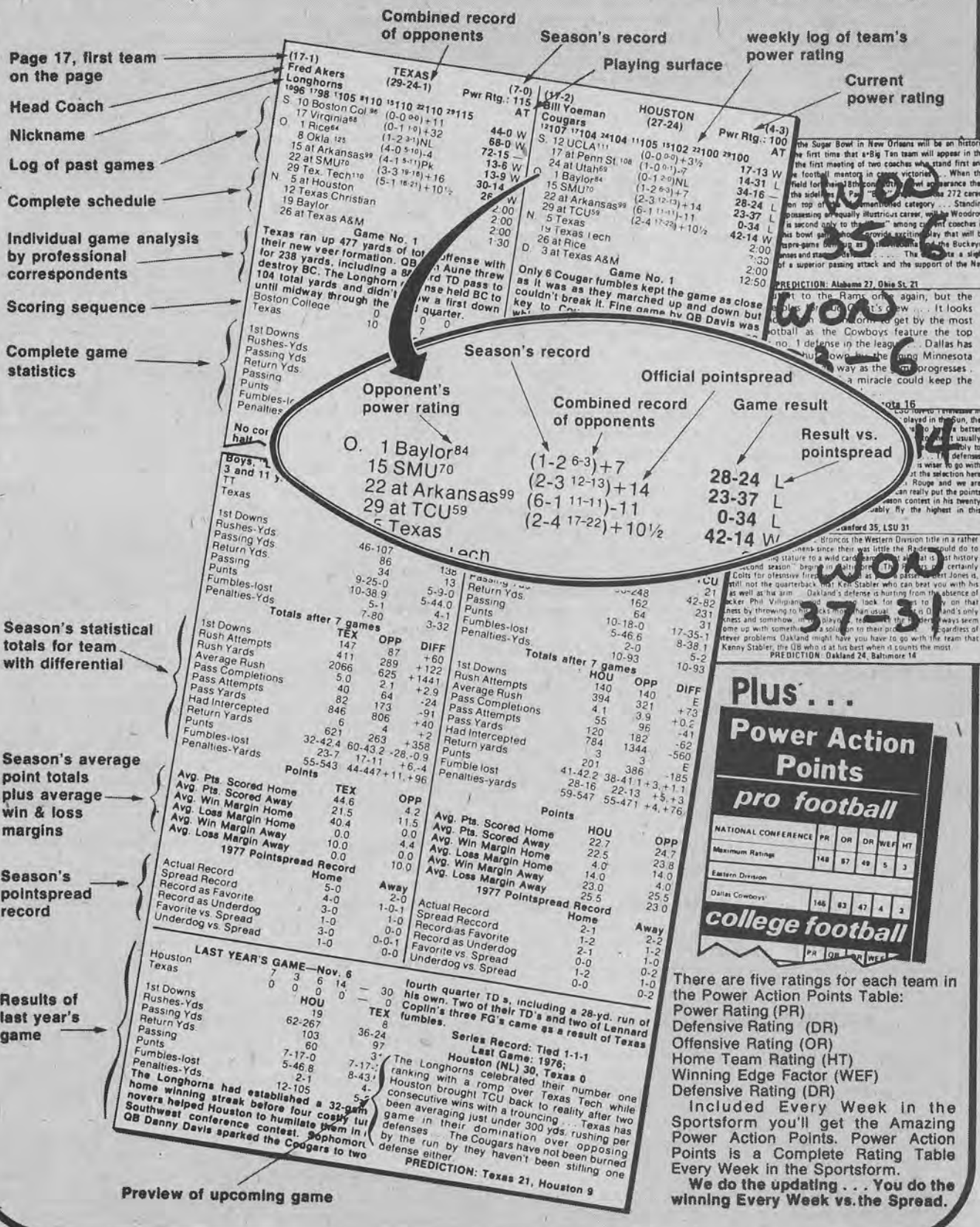

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Defensive Rating (DR)

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(Continued from page 65)
Jets. We had a tough opener last year in Seattle and we have to go back there again this year.

Goals: Our goal this year will be to get into the play-offs with a trip to the Super Bowl hopefully as a result. Last year for the first time our team started to think Super Bowl, to think that they could play in the championship game.

"The Sack Pack": I think that "The Sack Pack" is getting to the mature age now. They are much more intelligent now, the learning process is over for these guys. They understand football much better and they are the type individuals that will give 100% of themselves. So with the knowledge that they have accumulated over the last several years and with the ability they have, I feel that they are ready to have their greatest year. I would like to think that "The Sack Pack" will have its best year.

Defensive Secondary: The defensive secondary should know one another now after playing together for one season. I feel that our entire defensive unit should be in a stronger position than at anytime since I have been here. What I have said about the defensive line also applies to the defensive secondary. They are much smarter, much wiser football players. They know their jobs better going into the season and I am hoping for the best year out of our defense since our arrival.

Specialty Teams: I think that I have got to do a better job in improving our specialty teams. This year we will give more thought to keeping people that can help us on the specialty teams. If a fellow has ability and is a good special teams player, then he is going to be a better football player for it. Some of my decisions in the past have been to keep the player that could do the job in case somebody got hurt and maybe we would suffer a little on the special teams. This year my thoughts are to go the other way, to keep the player that can help us on the special teams.

Team Speed: We need a little more team speed. There are areas that more speed would help us. When we punt or kick-off to Miami or New England, they have the racehorses back there that scare you. They have good overall team speed and I don't think that we can measure up to them on that area. This is something that we will be looking for in the draft.

16 Game Schedule: I think that overall the ball club is going to like the 16 game schedule. I feel that they would just as soon play the two extra regular season games than two more pre-season games. The only problem with the new scheduling format is that in the last two games of the pre-season, we would take a better look at our reserves, now we are going to have to look while we are preparing for the season opener. In preparation, we are going to have to bring the rookies in a week earlier to take a better look at them to see what they can do and to give us one more week to work with them. I don't think anyone knows what the 16 game schedule is going to do in regard to injuries. We are going to have to be prepared for them because with the two extra games, they could become a big factor in winning a championship.

Number of Colt Runningbacks: I think that we will probably need a fifth runningback. Going to the sixteen game schedule, backs have a tendency to get more banged up than other players and as a result a fifth back is needed.

Characteristics of a Special Teams Player: The first area where you pass judgment on whether someone is going to be a good special teamer is on the kick-off coverage team. If a player goes down the field with reckless abandon and will make the tackle inside the 2-plus yardline and shows the desire to make that tackle then you have a good special teams player. He is tough, he has speed to get down field to make the tackle in that 20 yard region and he has the desire to play and make the tackle.

Injuries in '77: We had our share of injuries this year. The two previous years we were fortunate in not having very many. We never did get to use Roger Carr the entire season the way we would have liked, that took away our number one home run hitter. Joe Ehrmann got hurt in the second ball game and missed about six games.

Capsule looks at positions in Baltimore's 1978 plans follow:

Wide Receivers—This is the deepest position on the squad with the return of Randy Burke, Roger Carr and Marshall Johnson to playing condition. Burke was first round draft pick in '77 and missed the entire season due to a shoulder injury. Roger Carr caught 11 touchdown passes in '76, a knee injury slowed him to only 11 passes during the entire '77 season and for only one TD. Glenn Doughty had 28 receptions in '77 for 435 yards and 4 TDs. Freddie Scott gained invaluable game experience as he replaced Carr in the starting line-up. Howard Satterwhite was added to the roster at the end of the season to give some added depth for the play-offs. Ricky Thompson also provides depth.

Tight End—Raymond Chester caught 31 passes and finished third on the team behind Lydell Mitchell and Don McCauley. He gained 556 yards and scored three TDs. Called by Coach Marchibroda "our big play guy," Chester made key catches in the Colts-Dolphins and the Colts-Patriots games. His best game receiving was against New England in the season finale. He caught 4 passes for 122 yards and one touchdown. Against the New York Jets, he topped the 100 yard mark catching 5 passes for 102 yards and a score.

Offensive Tackle—George Kunz was selected to the All Pro team for the fifth time and played in his 7th Pro Bowl. "George had a great season and played about as well as he has ever played in his career," commented Marchibroda. "David Taylor is improving and I think this is the year that David has to make a mark for himself. He will be going into his sixth season and he is well respected. I feel that David has the ability to reach a George Kunz level of play."

Offensive Guard—Elmer Collett, Ken Huff and Robert Pratt all started for the Colts during the '77 season. Huff, the former North Carolina All American and Colts number one draft pick, played well and should battle Collett for the starting spot on the right side. "Bob Pratt is rapidly becoming one of the finest offensive guards in the National Football League," was the way that Coach Marchibroda once described this five year veteran also from North Carolina. Ron Baker was a first year player who missed the season due to an injury.

Center—Forrest Blue earned All-Pro honors for the 49ers in the early '70s and handles the snaps on punts, field goals and points after. Ken Mendenhall is called "Mr. Dependable" by Coach Marchibroda for his steady workmanlike performances.

Quarterback—Last season, Bert Jones completed more passes than any other NFL quarterback (224) and gained 2686 yards, second to Buffalo's Joe Ferguson. He threw for 17 touchdowns despite the fact that Roger Carr, the Colts speedster wide receiver missed most of the season. "Bert did not have the statistical season in '77 that he had in '76 but I am not too sure he didn't accomplish as much with

BALTIMORE'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. MC CALL, Reese	TE	Auburn
2. WOODS, Mike	LB	Cincinnati
5. MYERS, Frank	T	Texas A&M
6. GARRY, Ben	RB	So. Mississippi
7. LOGAN, Jeff	RB	Ohio State
8. ANTHONY, Monte	RB	Nebraska
9. STUDDARD, Dave	T	Texas
10. OWENS, Dallas	DB	Kentucky
11. MASON, Henry	WR	Central Missouri
12. ALLEN, Bruce	P	Richmond

Bert Jones
Quarterback

less to work with. Because of the injury factor, more responsibility was put on Bert's shoulders and I thought that he came through and did an excellent job with the 10-4 record," commented Marchibroda.

Runningback—Lydell Mitchell became the Colts' All Time leading ground gainer during the '77 season as he surpassed Lenny Moore's career rushing total of 5174. Mitchell ended the season with a career mark of 5487 yards. Don McCauley backs up Mitchell at the halfback spot and what an effective back-up he is. McCauley gained 234 yards last season on 83 tries. Ron Lee provides the Colts with a back that can play either halfback or fullback. At 6-4, 225 pounds, this third year player from West Virginia University, was the Colts number two rusher in '77. He gained 346 yards on 84 attempts. Roosevelt Leaks was the Colts third leading rusher last season with 237 yards on 59 carries but his primary function is to block and that he does very well.

Defensive Ends—Fred Cook, a 6-4, 246 pound, five year vet, had his best pro season in '77. He led the defensive line in tackles with 65, in quarterback sacks (9 for a minus 59 yards) and in interceptions with 3. On the other side is John Dutton. A three year participant in the Pro Bowl, Dutton was credited with 39 tackles in '77 and 6 quarterback sacks.

Defensive Tackles—The 1977 season saw the arrival of Mike Barnes as perhaps the best defensive lineman in the NFL. The winner of the Mack Truck "Bulldog" Award, Barnes had his best season as a pro. He registered 51 tackles and had 8 quarterback sacks for 78 yards lost. Joe Ehrmann missed six games in the '77 season due to a broken hand suffered in the first New York Jets game. Ken Novak had the opportunity to gain valuable playing experience during Ehrmann's absence.

Linebackers—Stan White had his greatest season as a professional in '77. "Stan has done an outstanding job for us. He had just improved steadily every year and now we almost expect an excellent football game from Stan every week," commented Marchibroda. White will play the right side in the Colts three linebacker system. He was the team's second leading tackler last season with 89. He led the linebacker corps in quarterback sacks with 8 and was the NFL leader for most interceptions by a linebacker with 7.

Defensive Secondary—The Colts secondary should be improved in '78 because of their having one full season together. The Colts had two new players in the secondary during last season. Lyle Blackwood was added to the team

1977 COLTS STATISTICS

	Colts	Opps.
Total Points Scored	295	221
Total First Downs	269	210
Third Down Efficiency	47.1	37.9
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2123-111	1798-78
Passes Att-Completed	395-224	382-181
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2465-136	2190-116
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	26-221	47-359
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	30-14.5	12-24.8
Punts-Average Yards	84-37.4	81-36.2
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	42-7.7	44-10.9
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	48-19.0	60-25.2
Fumbles-Ball Lost	24-14	27-17
Penalties-Yards	77-620	78-618

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Linhart	0	32-35	17-26	83
McCauley	8	0	0	48
Mitchell	7	0	0	42
Doughty	4	0	0	24
Leaks	4	0	0	24
Chester	3	0	0	18
Lee, R.	3	0	0	18
Jones	2	0	0	12
Scott	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Mitchell	301	1159	3.9	64	3
Lee, R.	84	346	4.1	30	3
Leaks	59	237	4.0	39	3
McCauley	83	234	2.8	16	6
Jones	28	146	5.2	22	2

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Jones	393	224	2686	57.0	11	78	17

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Mitchell	71	620	8.7	38	4
McCauley	51	495	9.7	34	2
Chester	31	556	17.9	78	3
Doughty	28	435	15.5	57	4
Scott	18	267	14.8	33	2
Carr	11	199	18.1	45	1
Lee, R.	10	60	6.0	15	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Blackwood	10	163	16.3	37	0
White	7	84	12.0	19	0
Laird	3	56	18.7	22	0
Thompson, N.	3	39	13.0	20	0
Munsey	3	25	8.3	14	0
MacLeod	2	37	18.5	33	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Lee, D.	82	3142	38.3	59	2

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Stevens	34	6	301	8.9	24	0
Blackwood	7	5	22	3.1	10	0

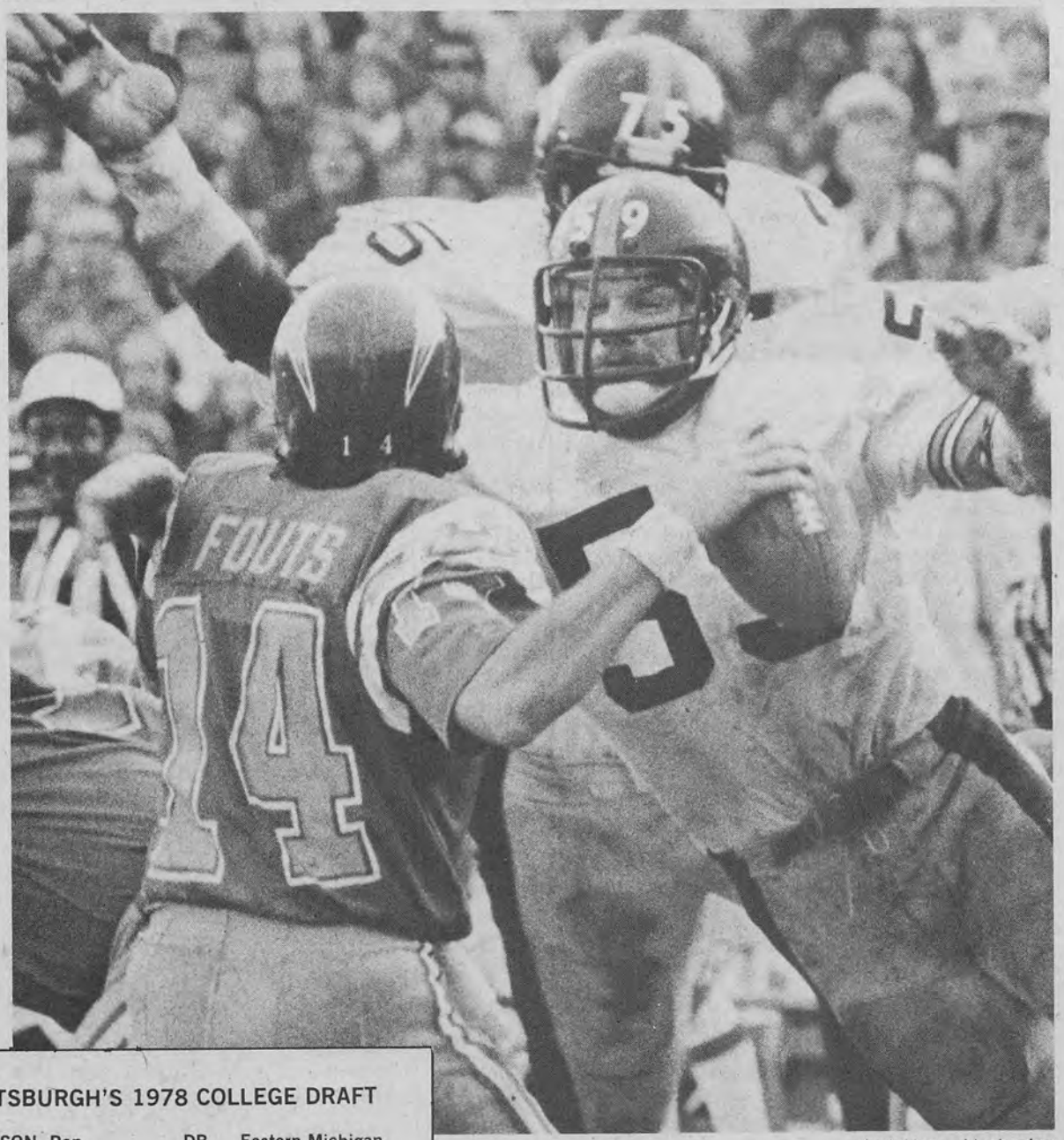
Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Laird	24	541	22.5	35	0
Stevens	11	216	19.6	37	0
McCauley	5	67	13.4	20	0

roster during training camp after he was released by the Seahawks. Norm Thompson was added to the Colts roster after leaving St. Louis.

David Lee has been the Colts punter since 1966. In '77 he punted for a 37.4 yard average on 82 punts. His longest of the season was 59 yards and 19 times he dropped the ball inside the opponents 20 yard line. Toni Linhart handled all the kicking off, the field goals, and the point after chores. He finished second in the AFC in scoring behind Errol Mann of Oakland with 83 points. Linhart kicked 32 of 35 extra points and 17 of 26 field goals. •

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Aiming For A Record 7th Straight Playoff



Jack Ham Linebacker

PITTSBURGH'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. JOHNSON, Ron	DB	Eastern Michigan
2. FRY, Willie	DE	Notre Dame
3. COLQUITT, Craig	P	Tennessee
4. ANDERSON, Larry	DB	Louisiana Tech
6. REUTERSHAN, Randy	WR	Pittsburgh
7. DU FRESNE, Mark	TE	Nebraska
8. MOSER, Rich	RB	Rhode Island
8. KEYS, Andre	WR	Cal Poly-Obispo
9. REYNOLDS, Lance	T	Brigham Young
10. BECKER, Doug	LB	Notre Dame
10. JURICH, Tom	K	Northern Arizona
11. TERRY, Nat	DB	Florida State
11. BRZOZA, Tom	C	Pittsburgh
12. CARR, Brad	LB	Maryland

The Steelers are shooting for an unprecedented seventh straight playoff season. Last year they matched the mark of the Cleveland Browns (1950-55) and the current Oakland team by reaching post-season play for the sixth time in a row.

It was a bittersweet and uneven performance. With a nine and five mark, it was their lowest win total during this ultra-successful period. That they did not advance past the opening round of the playoffs for the first time in four years was disappointing.

However, it was a testimony to the team's coaching and talent that they even made the playoffs in a so-called off-year. Like everything else, football is relative and when you do not play up to your past performances, there

Steelers Vs. NFL Opponents

	Won	Lost	Tied
Atlanta Falcons	3	1	0
Baltimore Colts	5	3	0
Buffalo Bills	3	1	0
Chicago Bears	3	16	1
Cincinnati Bengals	11	5	0
Cleveland Browns	20	36	0
Dallas Cowboys	9	10	0
Denver Broncos	1	5	1
Detroit Lions	9	14	1
Green Bay Packers	8	19	0
Houston Oilers	12	3	0
Kansas City Chiefs	4	2	0
Los Angeles Rams	1	13	2
Miami Dolphins	1	3	0
Minnesota Vikings	3	4	0
New England Patriots	2	1	0
New Orleans Saints	2	3	0
New York Giants	26	42	3
New York Jets	4	0	0
Oakland Raiders	5	6	0
Philadelphia Eagles	25	41	3
St. Louis Cardinals	28	20	3
San Diego Chargers	6	0	0
San Francisco 49ers	4	5	0
Washington Redskins	27	40	4

Upcoming Pitt Milestones

CHUCK NOLL needs three more wins to become the 17th winningest pro coach of all time. He has 74 and former Cleveland coach Blanton Collier has 76. Fifteen victories would enable Chuck to pass Jimmy Conselman who is 16th with 88.

FRANCO HARRIS needs 705 yards to become the sixth player in pro football history to rush for 7,000 yards. Franco enters the 1978 season as the ninth leading ground gainer of all-time with 6,295 and a 1,000-yard year would move him into fifth place.

ROY GERALA needs 67 points to jump from 14th on the all-time scoring list to 11th. He has 814 points and trails Don Hutson (823), Pete Gogolak (863) and Bobby Walston (881).

LYNN SWANN needs seven receptions to move into the top ten receivers in Steeler history. He has 138 and another 50-catch season would jump him to fifth place, passing Val Jansante (144), Dick Hoak (146), Fran Rogel (150), Gary Ballman (154), Lynn Chandnois (163) and Ron Shanklin (166).

ROCKY BLEIER needs 471 yards to move from seventh place to fifth on the all-time Steeler rushing list. He has 2,472 and trails Tom Tracy (2,712) and Frenchy Fuqua (2,942).

TERRY BRADSHAW needs 139 yards rushing to move past Lynn Chandnois (1,934) into ninth place among the all-time Steeler leaders. Also, needs seven touchdown passes to reach 100.

can be disappointments even though a degree of success has been achieved.

It is safe to assume, regardless of whether 1977 was considered a good or a bad year, that many of the problems that existed came from within and were self-created, not from the opposition, even though the schedule turned out to be the third most difficult in the NFL.

For these reasons, the Steelers figure to have as good a chance as any AFC team to make it all the way to the top in 1978 without any major personnel changes. To be sure, there will be new faces and some of the old ones will be gone, and a good college draft could increase the number of both. An addition, however, is John Hicks, a guard formerly of the N.Y. Giants who was acquired by Pittsburgh in a trade which sent guard Jim Clack and wide receiver Ernie Pough to New York.

In looking back, the disruptions and distractions took something from the team's intensity and concentration in 1977. The Steelers set club records for turnovers and penalties, both of which were the second highest marks in the NFL. The lost fumbles and interceptions were completely uncharacteristic of the team's performance in the previous five playoff seasons. In the past, it was usually the Steelers who forced the crucial turnovers or the mistake that changed the momentum of a game. Last season the opposite was true.

In spite of this, the team did reach its primary objective of making the playoffs. However, in its opening round loss to Denver, it played as it had during the season, mixing brilliant execution with breakdowns which proved costly and ended all hopes for a Super Bowl berth.

From the beginning of training camp, when Chuck Noll and some of his key players were preoccupied with a lawsuit through the holdouts of Jack Lambert and Mel Blount and injuries and other internal problems which occurred later, the team never truly achieved the consistency of a champion.

These are things of the past now and Noll's track record of uniting and molding his individuals into a team should again be apparent. The nucleus of the squad is still intact and far from being at a stage where the age factor is critical. It is true the Steelers can no longer win through sheer physical force but what they have lost in this area they have gained in finesse and experience.

Six of the offensive and defensive regulars are over thirty and four others are either thirty now or will turn thirty sometime during the season, including Terry Bradshaw and Jack Ham. Other key players such as Franco Harris, Jack Lambert and Lynn Swann are approaching what should be the top years of their careers.

Several of the team's skill-position players had their best seasons ever, particularly on offense where the passing game was the most productive and efficient that it has been in Noll's nine years at the helm.

The balance that was lacking on offense previously is now present and no longer do the Steelers rely solely on Harris to make the big play when they have the football.

A combination of things contributed to this situation. Opponents stacked their defenses to stop the Steeler running game by playing their safeties up close and leaving their cornerbacks with single coverage on the outside receivers.

After Terry Bradshaw broke his left wrist in the fourth game, this strategy was used more frequently but the Steeler quarterback responded with a gutty performance and made the defenses play honest.

Another factor that helped the passing attack was all the front line receivers stayed healthy for most of the year.

1978 STEELERS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Baltimore Colts at Baltimore (N)
Aug. 12—Atlanta Falcons at Pittsburgh (N)
Aug. 19—New York Giants at Giants Stadium, N.J. (N)
Aug. 26—Dallas Cowboys at Dallas (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Buffalo
S. 10 SEATTLE (30-2)
S. 17 Cincinnati (10-17)
S. 24 CLEVELAND (35-31)
O. 1 NY Jets (23-20)
O. 8 ATLANTA
O. 15 Cleveland (28-14)
O. 23 HOUSTON N-TV (27-10)
1977 Record: 9-5

O. 29 KANSAS CITY
N. 5 NEW ORLEANS
N. 12 Los Angeles TV
N. 19 CINCINNATI (20-14)
N. 27 San Francisco N-TV (27-0)
D. 3 Houston (10-27)
D. 9 BALTIMORE TV (21-31)
D. 16 Denver TV (7-21)
AFC Playoff Game:
Broncos 34, Steelers 21

This was particularly true with Lynn Swann and John Stallworth.

Pittsburgh was not so fortunate on defense where this unit does not completely control a game as was true in the vintage seasons of 1974 and 1975 but still ranks among the best in pro football.

Its ability to function last season was hampered by injuries. A total of 34 games were missed by defensive players who were expected to make major contributions. Of this number, the 19 games Mike Wagner (11), L.C. Greenwood (5) and Lambert (3) sat out hurt the most. This trio made All Pro the year before and you just don't replace people of this calibre.

With Lambert and Blount available from the beginning of training camp and Wagner and Greenwood healthy, the defense will eliminate most of the problems that existed last year when it still showed it could do the job most of the time.

It is true that the pass rush is not as effective as it was in the past and some adjustments may be necessary. With an abundance of linebackers, vets and less experienced players, Noll may contemplate going to a 3-4 alignment, at least on a part-time basis.

The special teams and the kicking game must improve. These units had as much to do with the team's success in the past as some of the other more noticeable elements of football.

Noll was not satisfied with his coverage teams. They lacked the intensity and desire and, at times, cost the team valuable yardage on exchanges of possession. This probably could be attributed, in part, to the lack of concentration brought about by some of the problems mentioned earlier since these units are usually manned by young, inexperienced players whose introduction to pro football was not that of a typical Steeler year under Noll. Part of this problem was solved in the latter stages of the season by utilizing older players who had been good special teams performers before moving into starting posts.

The Steelers attempted fewer field goals than any team in pro football last season. As a result, they did not get the production out of this department that they normally could expect. However, their success on their infrequent opportunities was average.

In the other phase of the kicking game, the punting could have been better but when total returns and net figures are examined, the end result was not nearly as bad as it appeared to be but was magnified by other shortcomings, including poor coverage in the first half of the season. With Bobby Walden gone, a battle shapes up between Rick Engles, who handled the chores in the final two games of 1977, and several other prospects.

Not only is the Steelers' 1978 schedule apparently easier than last year, but the two teams who figure to challenge them for the AFC Central Division title, Cincinnati and Houston, appear to have tougher roads in front of them than they did in 1977.

Of the Steelers' 16 regular season games in 1978, eight are with teams that finished with records of .500 or less and eight are with teams that finished with winning marks. However, of the losing teams, only two of them were able to win over five games while three of the winners made the playoffs.

In 1977 Pittsburgh opponents won 56% of their games. This season's foes won just 45% of their games last year.

The importance of a potentially easier schedule for a playoff contender is best illustrated by the results of the post-season games. Of the eight played in 1977, the host team won six times. The advantage to the home team is obvious, both from a real and psychological standpoint.

In Pittsburgh's case, the team has lost just one post-season game in five attempts at Three Rivers Stadium. And it is no coincidence that in the two Super Bowl seasons, three of their four victories leading to the title games were achieved at home while in the two years since then when they didn't make it to the big one, they have not played at home a single time in the playoffs. This could be the year they again reward their fans with a game or two in Pittsburgh after the regular season is completed. ●

1977 STEELERS STATISTICS

	Steelers	Opps.
Total Points Scored	283	243
Total First Downs	266	228
Third Down Efficiency	32.2	34.0
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2258-122	1723-80
Passes Att-Completed	341-173	358-157
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2387-124	1969-112
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	27-245	32-285
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	31-12.1	21-14.2
Punts-Average Yards	73-36.3	79-40.3
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	46-8.5	34-11.2
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	45-22.0	48-22.5
Fumbles-Ball Lost	41-28	28-13
Penalties-Yards	122-973	82-784

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Harris	11	0	0	66
Gerela	0	34-37	9-14	61
Stallworth	7	0	0	42
Swann	7	0	0	42
Bleier	4	0	0	24
Bradshaw	3	0	0	18
Cunningham	2	0	0	12
Thornton	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Harris	300	1162	3.9	61	11
Bleier	135	465	3.4	16	4
Harrison	36	175	4.9	33	0
Bradshaw	31	171	5.5	26	3
Thornton	27	103	3.8	18	2
Maxson	18	56	3.1	8	0
Smith, L.	14	55	3.9	16	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Bradshaw	314	162	2523	51.6	19	65	17
Graff	12	6	47	50.0	0	21	0
Dungy	8	3	43	37.5	2	18	0
Kruczek	7	2	19	28.6	0	13	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Swann	50	789	15.8	47	7
Stallworth	44	784	17.8	49	7
Cunningham	20	347	17.4	43	2
Bleier	18	161	8.9	30	0
Lewis	11	263	23.9	65(TD)	1
Harris	11	62	5.6	15	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Blount	6	65	10.8	37	0
Allen	5	76	15.2	48	0
Ham	4	17	4.3	9	0
Edwards	3	116	38.7	51	0
Dungy	3	37	12.3	29	0
Shell	3	14	4.7	8	0
White	2	27	13.5	19	0
Thomas	2	10	5.0	12	0
Winston	2	7	3.5	7	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Walden	67	2482	37.0	65	1
Engles	5	169	33.8	48	0

Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Smith, J.	36	0	294	8.2	30	0
Swann	9	0	88	9.8	31	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Smith, J.	16	381	23.8	37	0
Smith, L.	16	365	22.8	33	0
Pough	7	106	15.1	22	0
Maxson	5	120	24.0	43	0

Still the Team to Beat En Route to Super Bowl

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Clarence Davis (28) carries the ball for Oakland, headed by OG George Buehler (64). RB Mark van Eeghen blocks at the right. . .

Only two things stood between the Oakland Raiders and a successful defense of their 1976 Super Bowl championship last season. The two obstacles were injuries and the Denver Broncos.

Folks around Oakland way think that the Raiders can overcome both of these problems this time around, although it remains to be seen whether all of the injured bodies will recover to their former condition.

That may be the major question facing coach John Madden and general manager Al Davis in 1978. Slightly complicating matters was absence of a No. 1 draft choice this year. The Raiders owed their first pick to the Packers from an earlier deal.

If Oakland can return to full strength, no new additions are really needed. In fact, a rookie might have a problem breaking into the lineup except for injuries.

Ah, but those injuries. They made a shambles of last season and held the Oakland record to a mere 11-3. That mark would have been good enough to win two of the three A.F.C. division titles. As it was, the Raiders finished one game behind the other problem—Denver. The Broncos

1978 RAIDERS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Chicago Bears at Chicago
Aug. 12—New England Patriots at Oakland (N)
Aug. 20—San Francisco 49ers at San Francisco (TV)
Aug. 26—Los Angeles Rams at Oakland (TV)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Denver TV (24-14)
S. 10 San Diego (7-12)
S. 17 Green Bay
S. 24 NEW ENGLAND N-TV
O. 1 Chicago TV
O. 8 HOUSTON (34-29)
O. 15 KANSAS CITY (21-20)
O. 22 Seattle
1977 Record: 11-3
AVC Playoff Game:
Raiders 37, Colts 31 OT

O. 29 SAN DIEGO (24-0)
N. 5 Kansas City (37-28)
N. 13 Cincinnati N-TV
N. 19 DETROIT
N. 26 SEATTLE (44-7)
D. 3 DENVER N-TV (7-30)
D. 10 Miami TV
D. 17 MINNESOTA TV (35-13)
AFC Title Game:
Broncos 20, Raiders 17

Ted Hendricks
Linebacker

John Vella
Tackle

OAKLAND'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

2. BROWNING, Dave	DE	Washington
3. JENSEN, Derrick	RB	Texas-Arlington
3. MASON, Lindsey	T	Kansas
4. HARVEY, Maurice	DB	Ball State
4. STEWART, Jim	WR	Missouri
5. RAMSEY, Derrick	TE	Kentucky
6. DAVIS, Tom	C	Nebraska
6. LEVENSELLER, Mike	WR	Washington State
7. WHITTINGTON, Arthur	RB	Southern Methodist
7. INMAN, Earl	LB	Bethune-Cookman
8. NICHOLS, Mark	DE	Colorado State
11. JONES, Dean	DB	Fresno State
11. GLAZEBROOK, Bob	DB	Fresno State
12. CONRON, Joe	WR	Pacific

with their incredible 12-2 won the Western division and the home field in the crucial playoff games.

It was the 20-17 loss at Mile High Stadium last New Year's Day that officially ended the quest for a repeat trip to the Super Bowl for Oakland. And even that result came after a hotly-disputed fumble call.

Raider officials, players and fans still refuse to concede the non-call on the fumble that turned the playoff games around and set the Broncos to New Orleans instead of the Raiders.

But it was really the injuries that brought down the Oakland hopes. Linebacker Phil Villapiano was struck down by a knee injury after just two games and didn't return all season. That was just the start. Safety George Atkinson went to the sidelines with two games to go in the season, tackle John Vella was bothered all year by injuries and played only five games, Jack Tatum was knocked down of the game against Denver and defensive end Charlie Philyaw was finished after just three games.

Then there was reserve safety Charles Phillips' departure after seven games, cornerback Skip Thomas injury with two weeks to go and Fred Biletnikoff's shoulder separation in the second quarter of the A.F.C. championship game at Denver.

When all was said and done, however, it was the troubles endured by quarterback Ken Stabler that really put an end to the Oakland title chances. Stabler actually missed only one game despite being bothered by knee problems almost all season. It was that one game, however, that cost the Raiders dearly.

Stabler sat out the San Diego game on Nov. 20 and without him, the Raider offense generated just one touchdown and Oakland was beaten, 12-7. That loss nullified any possibility of the Raiders catching the Broncos even though Oakland won the rematch between the two teams (24-14) after Denver had upset the Raiders (30-7) at Oakland.

Madden leaves no doubt about his feelings concerning the 1977 season. "What happened last year," the coach says, "is history. We are going to start all over again this year and finish up by winning the title again."

Stabler's condition may have a lot to do with whether or not this is a realistic possibility. He finished sixth in the N.F.L. in passing statistics last season, but that is a bit misleading. His 20 interceptions pulled down his overall record. Seven of those errant aerials were thrown in the game the Raiders lost to Denver. With money on the line, Stabler is one of the premiere quarterbacks in pro football and his value to the Raiders was amply demonstrated last season by San Diego.

He put on a great show against Baltimore in the opening round of the playoffs last season and kept the Raiders alive in the sudden-death victory over Baltimore. That win, 37-31, in the second overtime was sealed by a touchdown pass to tight end Dave Casper.

Casper, the rock-hard receiver, is also one of the best tight end blockers in the game and probably the most important single man in the passing offense aside from Sta-

bler himself.

Last year, Casper proved himself to be one of the best clutch receivers in the business, grabbing 48 passes for 584 yards and six touchdowns. The former Notre Damer was the favorite choice for Stabler in clutch situations like the overtime at Baltimore.

However, Stabler has a great field to pick from when it comes to receivers. The Raiders have them in all styles and they are all good. Among the speedy wide receivers are Cliff Branch and Mike Siani.

Biletnikoff is perhaps the best of the wide receivers, if the veteran is healthy, although he is not especially fleet afoot. Both Branch (540 yards and six touchdowns) and Biletnikoff (446 yards and five scores) had 33 receptions last season while Siani had 24 catches as a backup.

On the offensive line, Madden expects to have Vella back at tackles with veteran Art Shell and reserve Henry Lawrence. George Buehler and Gene Upshaw are the guards with Dan Dalby at center.

In the running backfield, bruising Mark van Eegan (the

Dave Dalby
Center

A.F.C. leader with 1,273 yards) is the key man with outside speed coming from Clarence Davis. Ex-Jet Carl Garrett, tough Pete Banaszak, young Terry Robiske and Hubert Ginn provide the reserve strength.

Barring injuries, the defense front line will include a combination selected from among Mike McCoy, John Matuszak, Otis Sistrunk, Pat Toomay and Dave Rowe. In the main, Oakland plays the three four, but sometimes switches in certain situations.

With Villapiano expected back, the lineback corps will also include Monte Johnson and Ted (the Stork) Hendricks. Floyd Rice, a starter last year after Villapiano bit the dust, will be the backup.

In the defensive secondary, Madden will pick from Tatum, Atkinson, Willie Brown, Neal Colzie, Phillips, Lester Hayes and Skip Thomas. Tatum is a free agent, having played out his option, but may well return to Oakland.

Punter Ray Guy is the best around, and Errol Mann, the placement man, led the league in scoring last season. They can do the job. Oakland, if healthy, could win it all again.

1977 RAIDERS STATISTICS

	Raiders	Opps.
Total Points Scored	351	230
Total First Downs	305	204
Third Down/Efficiency	46.6	31.3
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2627-156	1754-86
Passes Att-Completed	324-184	367-177
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2109-125	2222-105
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	25-229	35-281
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	26-13.5	23-15.5
Punts-Average Yards	59-43.3	74-37.6
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	38-9.8	30-7.2
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	49-18.6	63-16.3
Fumbles-Ball Lost	22-16	31-21
Penalties-Yards	89-747	81-717

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Mann	0	39-42	20-28	99
van Eeghen	7	0	0	42
Branch	6	0	0	36
Casper	6	0	0	36
Banaszak	5	0	0	30
Biletnikoff	5	0	0	30
Davis	5	0	0	30
Garrett	3	0	0	18
Siani	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
van Eeghen	327	1273	3.9	27	7
Davis	194	787	4.1	37	5
Banaszak	67	214	3.2	11	5
Garrett	53	175	3.3	13	1
Robiskie	22	100	4.5	10	1
Rae	13	75	5.8	21	1

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Stabler	294	169	2176	57.5	20	44	20
Rae	30	15	162	50.0	4	30	1

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Casper	48	584	12.2	27	6
Branch	33	540	16.4	43	6
Biletnikoff	33	446	13.5	44	5
Siani	24	344	14.3	39	2
Davis	16	124	9.6	38	0
van Eeghen	15	135	9.0	30	0
Garrett	8	61	7.6	13	2

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Tatum	6	146	24.3	41	0
Brown	4	24	6.0	18	0
Colzie	3	13	4.3	13	0
Atkinson	2	38	19.0	24	0
Phillips	2	35	17.5	29	0
Johnson	2	15	7.5	15	0
Rice	2	5	2.5	3	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Guy	59	2552	43.3	74	0

Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Colzie	32	6	334	10.4	23	0
Jennings	5	0	39	7.8	19	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Garrett	21	420	20.0	31	0
Banaszak	7	119	17.0	30	0
Robiskie	6	83	13.8	24	0
Jennings	4	93	23.2	29	0
Ginn	3	74	24.7	30	0
Davis	3	63	21.0	26	0
Hayes	3	57	19.0	23	0

Will They Be Home Team in Super Bowl XIII?

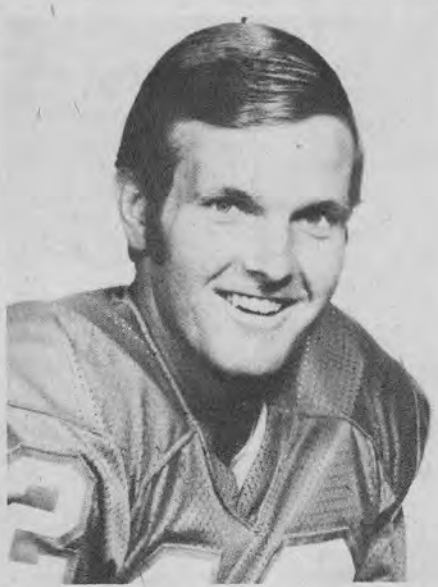
MIAMI DOLPHINS

Don Shula
Head Coach

Norm Bulaich
Running Back

MIAMI'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

2. BENJAMIN, Guy	QB	Stanford
3. SMITH, Lyman	DT	Duke
3. CEFALO, Jimmy	WR	Penn State
4. SMALL, Gerald	DB	San Jose State
4. LAAKSO, Eric	T	Tulane
5. BURGMEIER, Ted	DB	Notre Dame
6. BETTERS, Doug	DE	Nevada-Reno
7. BALDISCHWILER, Karl	T	Oklahoma
7. HENRY, Lloyd	WR	N.E. Missouri
8. CLANCY, Sean	LB	Amherst
9. HARDY, Bruce	TE	Arizona State
10. DENNARD, Mark	C	Texas A&M
12. MOORE, Mike	RB	Middle Tennessee
12. KENNEY, Bill	QB	Northern Colorado



Bob Griese
Quarterback

If things go according to plan, Don Shula's Miami Dolphins may become the first team to play in the Super Bowl in their home arena, the Orange Bowl next January.

With Super Bowl XIII set for January 21 in the Orange Bowl, Shula is taking dead aim at a return to the Dolphins past glory. First, of course, he must get past Baltimore and New England in the AFC East—and then the AFC playoffs, but Miami has the potential to do just that.

"If our young players who did so well last year, continue to improve in 1978, we have every reason to hope for a really big season," said Shula. "That is the question which this season will answer. Was 1977 their normal level of ability or will they continue to improve?"

In 1977, without Larry Csonka, Paul Warfield or Jim Kiick on their offense, and without Nick Buoniconti, Manny Fernandez, Dick Anderson and Jake Scott on defense, the Dolphins just missed the AFC playoffs finishing 10-4.

"Bob Beathard, our personnel man who did the drafting—and now has moved on to the Washington Red-

1978 DOLPHINS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

July 29—Philadelphia Eagles at Canton, Ohio (TV)
Aug. 5—St. Louis Cardinals at Miami Orange Bowl (N)
Aug. 12—New Orleans Saints at Louisiana Superdome (N)
Aug. 18—Minnesota Vikings at Miami Orange Bowl (TV)
Aug. 25—Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Tampa (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 NY Jets (14-10)	**O. 29 BALTIMORE TV (17-6)**
S. 10 Baltimore TV (28-45)	**N. 5 DALLAS TV**
S. 17 BUFFALO (31-14)	**N. 12 Buffalo (13-0)**
S. 24 Philadelphia	**N. 20 Houston N-TV (27-7)**
O. 1 ST. LOUIS (55-14)	**N. 26 NY JETS (21-17)**
O. 9 CINCINNATI N-TV (17-23)	**D. 3 Washington**
O. 15 San Diego (13-14)	**D. 10 OAKLAND TV**
O. 22 New England (10-14)	**D. 18 NEW ENGLAND N-TV (17-5)**
1977 Record: 10-4	

skins as their general manager is the man responsible for our good drafts," says Shula. "We wish him luck with Washington."

Some NFL people feel that Beathard ranks with Dallas' Gil Brandt in the evaluation of collegiate talent.

Despite the plethora of new faces, the key 1978 operative for Miami is still quarterback Bob Griese, the 12 year veteran, who wore glasses for the first time last year in order to counteract migraine headaches from tension. He led the NFL with 22 TD and the top percentage 58.6. Overall Griese, looking much like a college professor was 180 for 307 and 2,252 yards.

The Miami receivers rate high. The top man catching the ball is Nat Moore, who led the league with 12 TDs and was fourth in receptions with 52. Duriel Harris and tight end Andre Tillman are pretty fair, too. Jim Mandich, once the regular at TE has played out his option and may not return.

Miami has a veritable army of running backs with talent. Their latest acquisition is Delvin Williams from the San Francisco 49ers, in exchange for wide receiver Freddie Solomon and defensive back Vern Roberson.

Williams will compete with youngsters such as Gary Davis and Leroy Harris and veterans Bennie Malone, and Don Nottingham.

The offensive line, partially intact since the Super Bowl days, still keys on guard Larry Little. Also from the championship teams is Bob Kuechenberg. Both men switched from guard to tackle last year when injury problems dictated the move—and comported themselves with savvy and know how. Mike Current, Ed Newman and Steve Young make up the rest of the trenchermen up front. They enabled Miami to roll up 313 points in 1977, second only to Oakland in the AFC.

Despite the offensive revival the reason for Miami's success in 1977 was spelled d-e-f-e-n-s-e. Beathard, seemingly, knows where the best defenders are in collegiate play and his picks in the last three years may set up the Dolphins for some time to come.

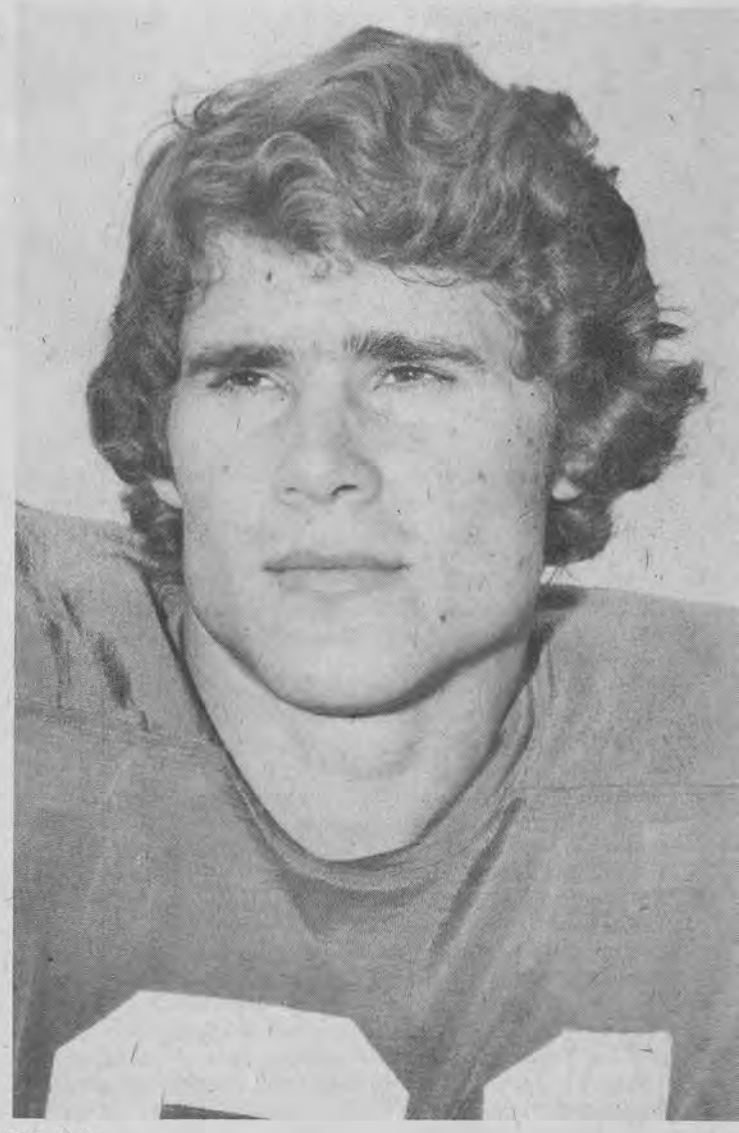
His best plums, of course, were defensive lineman A. J. Duke and Bob Baumhower. Duke, the number one pick from Louisiana State, was named AFC Rookie of the Year. The six feet four inch 247 pounder is quick and smart, as well as big enough to do the job.

Baumhower, a second round pick out of Alabama, stepped in and filled the tough middle guard spot in the three-four. A mobile, 6-5, 260 pounder, he led the defense to the third lowest points again in the AFC, a mere 217.

Most NFL people rate the Miami three-four right up there with Denver's. Vern Don Herder is the veteran who played better with rookies Baumhower and Duke.

At the linebacker spots, Miami is very deep. Larry Gor-

Delvin Williams
Running Back



Rick Volk
Safety

Nat Moore
Wide Recever

1977 DOLPHINS STATISTICS

	Dolphins	Opps.
Total Points Scored	313	197
Total First Downs	267	227
Third Down Efficiency	45.3	44.2
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2366-143	1749-101
Passes Att-Completed	311-182	414-226
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1961-107	2233-117
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	36-303	20-160
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	15-8.3	14-17.0
Punts-Average Yards	58-36.9	67-38.5
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	40-7.9	29-9.2
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	38-26.6	59-21.7
Fumbles-Ball Lost	22-13	37-18
Penalties-Yards	59-432	82-644

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Moore, N.	13	0	0	78
Yepremian	0	37-41	10-22	67
Harris, D.	5	0	0	30
Malone	5	0	0	30
Harris, L.	4	0	0	24
Bulaich	4	0	0	24
Davis	3	0	0	18
Nottingham	2	0	0	12
Tillman	2	0	0	12
Solomon	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Malone	129	615	4.8	66	5
Davis	126	533	4.2	60	2
Harris, L.	91	417	4.6	77	4
Bulaich	91	416	4.6	21	4
Nottingham	44	214	4.9	13	2
Moore, N.	14	89	6.4	24	1
Griese	16	30	1.9	13	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Griese	307	180	2252	58.6	13	73	22
Strock	4	2	12	50.0	1	9	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Moore, N.	52	765	14.7	73	12
Harris, D.	34	601	17.7	47	5
Bulaich	25	180	7.2	14	0
Tillman	17	169	10.0	37	2
Davis	14	151	10.8	32	1
Solomon	12	181	15.1	54	1
Nottingham	8	58	7.3	16	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Johnson	4	35	8.8	19	0
Thomas	3	23	7.7	23	0
Foley	3	17	5.7	17	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Michel	35	1338	38.2	61	0
Seiple	22	801	36.4	54	1

Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Solomon	32	1	285	8.9	39	0
Anderson, D.	4	1	3	0.7	3	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Davis	14	414	29.6	73	0
Solomon	10	273	27.3	90	1
Anderson, T.	7	167	23.9	40	0

don, selected three years ago, and Kim Bokamper, a 6-6, 245 pounder picked on the first round two campaigns back, who missed all of 1976 and played his rookie year last season, were solid performers.

Steve Towle is a potential Robert Brasile, with the fourth spot being up for grabs amongst veteran Bob Mathewson and youngster Mike Kolen. Mathewson is the man for whom the nickel pass defense was named. Shula's penchant for inserting Mathewson, number 53, in passing situations, gave the nickel its nickname, "the 53 defense."

The secondary is in great shape, considering the loss of both Anderson and Scott, both all pro performers in recent seasons. Veteran Curtis Johnson holds down a cornerback spot, with rookie Norris Thomas the other. Thomas had walked out of rookie camp two years back, and returned his signing bonus. He returned last year, made the team and became one of the hardest hitting defensive backs in the league.

Tim Foley was able to move back to safety when Thomas made the team. Charlie Babb is the other safety. Shula felt the defensive backfield was deep enough to swap Roberson to the Forty Niners in the Williams deal.

Garo Yepremian, the little tie breaker, is in danger of losing his job to Mike Michael, who earned the punting assignment last year.

Shula knows that the Super Bowl is far off, with a tough pennant race in the AFC East against both New England and Baltimore. His own coaching might be the edge the Dolphins used to win the dogfight. Ted Marchibroda has never won the big title although he has won two straight division titles. His frenetic coaching style may not prove to be as effective as Shula's cool methods.

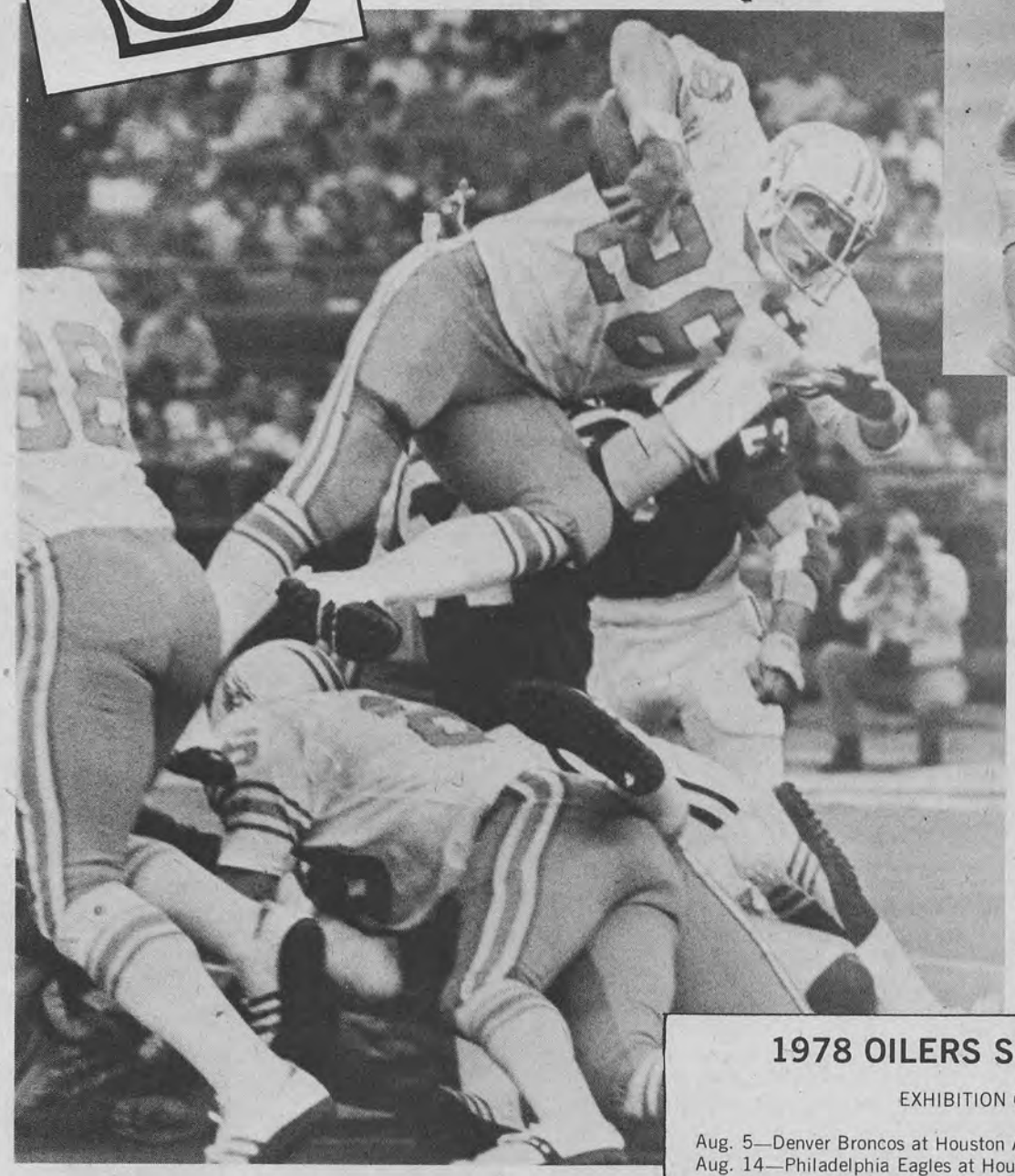
New England's Chuck Fairbanks is beset by the offensive line problem revolving around guards John Hannah and Leon Gray—and his team isn't pulling together.

All of which adds up to Miami making January plans in the Orange Bowl. ●

HOUSTON OILERS

A Heisman Trophy Winner Will Help

Bum Phillips
Head Coach



Rob Carpenter
Running Back

The Houston Oilers signed Earl Campbell, the 1977 Heisman Award winner after swinging a complicated deal with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Campbell, a running back, may be used at half back—along with Anthony Davis, the former USC scat back also acquired in the same deal with the Florida expansion team.

"We may use Davis as a punt and kick return man," noted coach Bum Phillips. "Campbell should give us the type of game breaker everyone needs."

Phillips still has an imposing list of players who remained unsigned. Ten vital cogs in the Oilers machine played out their options last year. If they sign, Houston could, conceivably, capture the AFC Central title. But the going will be tough with perennial champion Pittsburgh,

1978 OILERS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Denver Broncos at Houston Astrodome (N)
Aug. 14—Philadelphia Eagles at Houston Astrodome (N)
Aug. 19—Dallas Cowboys at Dallas (N)
Aug. 26—New Orleans Saints at Houston Astrodome (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Atlanta
S. 10 Kansas City (34-20)
S. 17 SAN FRANCISCO
S. 24 LOS ANGELES
O. 1 Cleveland (19-15)
O. 8 Oakland (29-34)
O. 15 BUFFALO
O. 23 Pittsburgh N-TV (10-27)
1977 Record: 8-6

O. 29 Cincinnati (10-13 OT)
N. 5 CLEVELAND (23-24)
N. 12 New England
N. 20 MIAMI N-TV (7-27)
N. 26 CINCINNATI (21-16)
D. 3 PITTSBURGH (27-10)
D. 10 New Orleans
D. 17 SAN DIEGO

Dan Pastorini
Quarterback

and the loaded Cincinnati Bengals very much in the hunt.

Dan Pastorini, the controversial quarterback, finally signed a multi-year agreement with the Oilers, ending trade talk. His backup, John Hadl has retired.

However, Pastorini's offensive unit could lose such as wide receiver Gary Garrison, tackle Greg Sampson, guard Elbert Drungo and running back Fred Willis, all unsigned.

The defense lists linebacker Gregg Bingham, end Andy Dorris, safety Mike Reinfeldt, linebacker Ted Thompson, safety C. L. Washington and kicker Tom Dempsey as players without contracts.

If Houston can't sign these players they might resemble Davis' 1977 team, the expansion Buccaneers.

Pastorini had a trouble filled 1977, on and off the field, but he still hit for 13 TDs and 1,987 yards. He has super people catching the ball in the speedy Ken Burrough, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson and Eddie Foster. Mike Barber is a promising tight end. Campbell, also, can be added to the battery of receivers.

Phillips' switched to youth in his backfield last year—and Campbell fits this mold, even more so. Bob Carpenter and Tim Wilson are solid, along with the veteran Ronnie Coleman. That number of good backs means competition for the starting jobs—and it might even mean that Campbell might not start, in the same manner that Dallas worked in Tony Dorsett.

Carpenter gained 652 yards, and was named to the all rookie team with Dorsett. Coleman had 660 and Wilson 343.

Fullback Don Hardemann was shipped to Tampa Bay for Davis in a trade of players who had both disappointed their employees.

The Houston receivers are for real. Burrough caught 43 passes for 816 yards and eight TDs. Johnson was 20 for 412 yards and three TDs, averaging 21 yards per catch. Running backs Carpenter and Coleman came out of the backfield for 45 more receptions combined.

The Oilers defense is mean, tough, quick and has savvy. Phillips is a disciple of the three-four with nose guard

HOUSTON'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1.	CAMPBELL, Earl	RB	Texas
3.	NIELSEN, Gifford	QB	Brigham Young
4.	RENFRO, Mike	WR	Texas Christian
6.	RUCKER, Conrad	TE	Southern U.
8.	WILSON, J.C.	DB	Pittsburgh
9.	MOL, Jim	DE	Morningside
10.	YOUNG, Steve	TE	Wake Forest
11.	THICKLEN, Willie	WR	Alabama State
12.	SCHUHMACHER, John	G	Southern California

Curly Culp being key. Elvin Bethea is a mammoth defensive end. And James Young made believers when he came from the CFL and earned a starting job.

The swarming four man linebacking crew are rated as tops in the NFL, with the possible exception of Denver's maniacs in Orange. Outside linebacker Robert Brazile is all pro, Bingham, Steve Kiner and Ted Thompson are the other starters.

At the corners, Houston possesses the veteran Willie Alexander and Zeke Moore. Safety Mike Reinfeldt had five interceptions, and Bill Currier filled in with great intensity when starter C.L. Washington was injured.

Toni Fritsch, the former Dallas placement expert has signed with Houston. Dempsey may not be offered a contract. Cliff Parsley did pretty well as the rookie punter.

Houston is in deep water with both the Steelers and Bengals. They must improve their offensive line. Depth in

Ted Washington
Linebacker

Billy Johnson
Wide Receiver

the backfield no longer is a problem, but Phillips must make the pieces fit.

They are looking to improvement in rookie guard George Rainer who was pretty good in 1977. He rates as a future all pro. Phillips must come to terms with Drungo and Sampson or suffer through a changeover similar to that experienced by New England when they were deserted by offensive lineman John Hannah and Leon Grey.

The final impetus to obtain the rights to Campbell was the off-season car accident in which running back Mike Voight, North Carolina's all time rushing leader, was involved in.

Voight had been acquired from Cincinnati who had drafted him third last year. He suffered a hip injury which leaves his career in doubt.

The Oilers defense needs to mature to the point of being able to dominate in the manner of the Steelers Iron Curtain of the past, and 1977's premier defense, Denver's Orange Crush. Defense wins championships in the NFL. The Oiler attack is good enough to make the team a contender—and the arithmetic says that the Houston defense allowed the same number of points that Oakland's did last year—230. That's good company.

In the past, the Houston attack depended upon the big play theory so well executed by the St. Louis Cardinals. Many coaches dislike this, feeling that it can't happen that often enough to win a championship. The addition of Campbell may enable the Oilers to establish their running game—and take some of the pressure off of Pastorini's air attack.

If "White Shoes" Johnson can keep up the good work in returning the ball, it will guarantee Houston field position—which Pastorini should be able to better exploit this year.

1977 OILERS STATISTICS

	Oilers	Opps.
Total Points Scored	299	230
Total First Downs	226	246
Third Down Efficiency	30.5	30.3
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1998-112	1802-103
Passes Att-Completed	347-181	379-192
Yards Passing-1st Downs	1875-91	2142-124
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	23-232	32-289
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	26-16.5	21-12.0
Punts-Average Yards	77-39.3	79-39.8
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	36-15.0	46-7.4
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	46-22.5	63-21.1
Fumbles-Ball Lost	30-17	39-28
Penalties-Yards	106-835	97-776

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Fritsch	0	19-20	12-16	55
Burrough	8	0	0	48
Johnson, B.	7	0	0	42
Coleman	6	0	0	36
Dempsey	0	8-11	4-6	20
Hardeman	3	0	0	18
Wilson	3	0	0	18
Pastorini	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Coleman	185	660	3.4	22	5
Carpenter	144	652	4.5	77	1
Wilson	99	343	3.5	16	3
Hardeman	45	152	3.4	18	2
Pastorini	16	39	2.4	15	2

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Pastorini	318	169	1969	53.0	18	85	13
Hadl	24	11	76	45.8	3	18	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Burrough	43	816	19.0	85	8
Carpenter	23	156	7.1	27	0
Coleman	22	115	5.2	21	1
Johnson, B.	20	412	20.6	71	3
Wilson	20	107	5.4	17	0
Giles	17	147	8.6	17	0
Foster	15	208	13.8	56	0
Hardeman	11	47	4.3	9	1
Barber	9	94	10.4	23	1

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Reinfeldt	5	78	15.6	30	0
Brazile	3	40	13.3	16	0
Alexander	3	111	37.0	95	1
Moore	3	56	18.7	34	0
Washington	3	26	8.7	19	0
Bingham	2	36	18.0	30	0
Currier	2	0	--	--	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Parsley	77	3030	39.3	55	2

Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Johnson, B.	35	8	539	15.4	76	2

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Johnson, B.	25	630	24.2	76	1
Anderson	8	182	22.8	44	0
Voight	8	156	19.5	34	0
Wilson	2	33	16.5	18	0

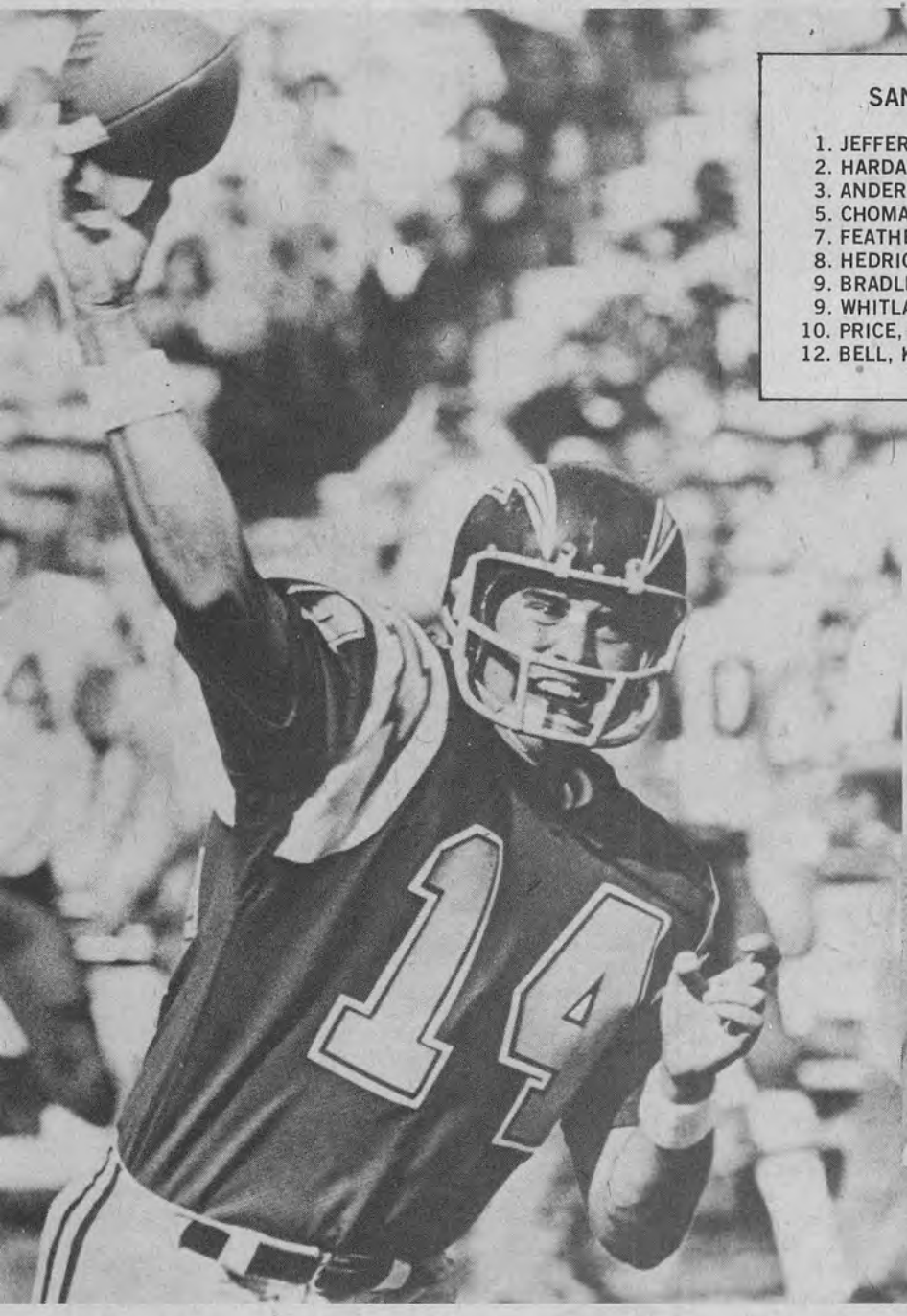
The Steelers are slipping and seemingly face at least a minor rebuilding program. They just managed to survive last year, only because of their ability to beat Cincinnati head to head. Houston has been able to handle Pittsburgh, at times, in the past, which is a plus for Phillips.

If Pastorini can outplay Terry Bradshaw and Ken Anderson, and Campbell can make like Tony Dorsett, it could be the Oilers year.

"I'll just be Earl," says Campbell. "I hope it's enough."

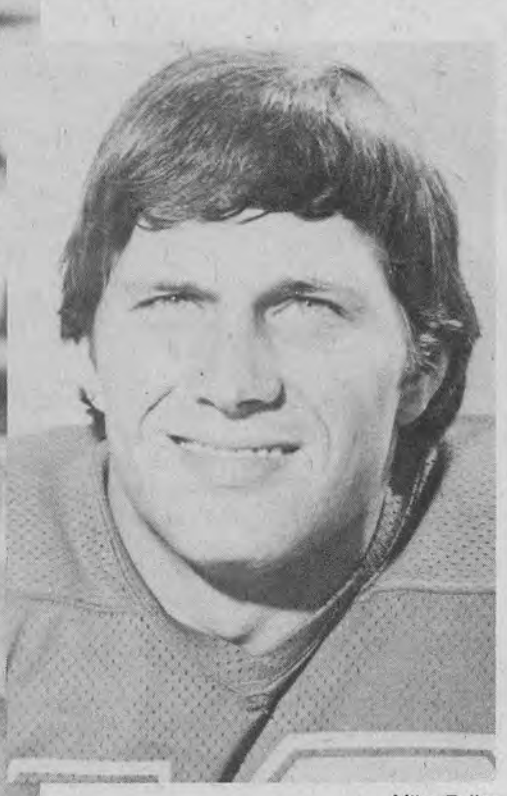
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Looking for A Better Break than Even



SAN DIEGO'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. JEFFERSON, John	WR	Arizona State
2. HARDAWAY, Milton	T	Oklahoma State
3. ANDERSON, Rickey	RB	So. Carolina State
5. CHOMA, John	G	Virginia
7. FEATHERSTONE, Cliff	DB	Colorado State
8. HEDRICK, Gavin	P	Washington State
9. BRADLEY, Henry	DT	Alcorn State
9. WHITLATCH, Blake	LB	Louisiana State
10. PRICE, Charles	TE	Cincinnati
12. BELL, Kevin	WR	Lamar



Mike Fuller
Safety

Dan Fouts
Quarterback

It has been mostly uphill for old college coach Tommy Prothro during his days in charge of the Chargers. He has gone from a 5-9 first season to a 2-12, then 6-8 and then, last year, 7-7. That shows some progress but it has been mentioned that there's a San Diego neighbor, Don Coryell, in town and he could get a call to the big job if Prothro doesn't get the Chargers over .500 to stay. Coryell has a home just outside town where he remembers the good old days at San Diego State and others think about good new days for the Chargers.

The Chargers weren't exactly chopped chicken liver last year, traveling 4005 yards, 1761 by land and 2244 by air, principally on the arm of James Harris but also on the passing of Dan Fouts. The passing attack between them was 55.8% effective, with Fouts completing passes more often but Harris getting more yards. Fouts sat out the first half of the season in a dispute over money and other important things. When he got into action, he was 63.3% effective, completing 69 passes for four touchdowns. He was only intercepted six times. Harris was in charge before Fouts' comeback. He completed 109, and passed for five touchdowns, but was intercepted 11 times. He has always had some trouble when the pass rush was on and everybody was covered. So would you.

The runners aren't too impressive, not on paper. Of course, the game isn't played on paper. Leading light in 1977 was Rickey Young, who gained 543 yards on 157 carries, scoring four touchdowns but averaging less than four yards a carry. Young was, however, tied for seventh among AFC pass catchers with 48 receptions. The main thrust of the Charger offense would seem to be overhand. Two other leading carriers for San Diego averaged less than four yards a carry, as did Young. They were Don Woods and Joe Washington. Bo Matthews did manage 4.5 yards a carry on 43 trips.

Johnny Rodgers, an old man among rookies at 25 last year, moved right in at wide receiver after his days in the Canadian League. He only caught 12, less than one a game, good for 15.6 yards a catch. He was the starter at the end of the year, on the opposite flank from Charlie Joiner, who completes a decade of pro football this year. Joiner is a threat. He caught 35 passes and they were good for six TDs. The tight end, Bob Klein, got credit for 20 catches. Joe Curran, a reserve, caught less than a pass a game but two of them were for touchdowns and one of the TDs covered 67 yards. So look out for sleepers.

A couple of old pros were anchors of a front line that at least allowed the passers all those completions. The line, of course, has to get some of the onus for the fact that the San Diegos charged for only 93 first downs rushing. Perhaps those two old folks, tackle Russ Washington and guard Doug Wilkerson, can be coaches on the line of scrimmage for some of the younger fellows. They were starting at the end of 1977, along with tackle Billy Shields, guard Don Macek and center Ralph Perretta. The line has suffered somewhat from youth and the inexperience that goes with it. Booker Brown is a reserve tackle and Charles Aiu can move in at guard.

The defense is more impressive than the San Diego offense. Four times it was able to hold the opposition to seven or less points and one of the opponents was Oakland. The Chargers were second in the AFC in total defense, allowing only 3,652 yards, and that was second lowest in Charger history. They allowed 73.1 fewer yards a game

1978 CHARGERS SCHEDULE

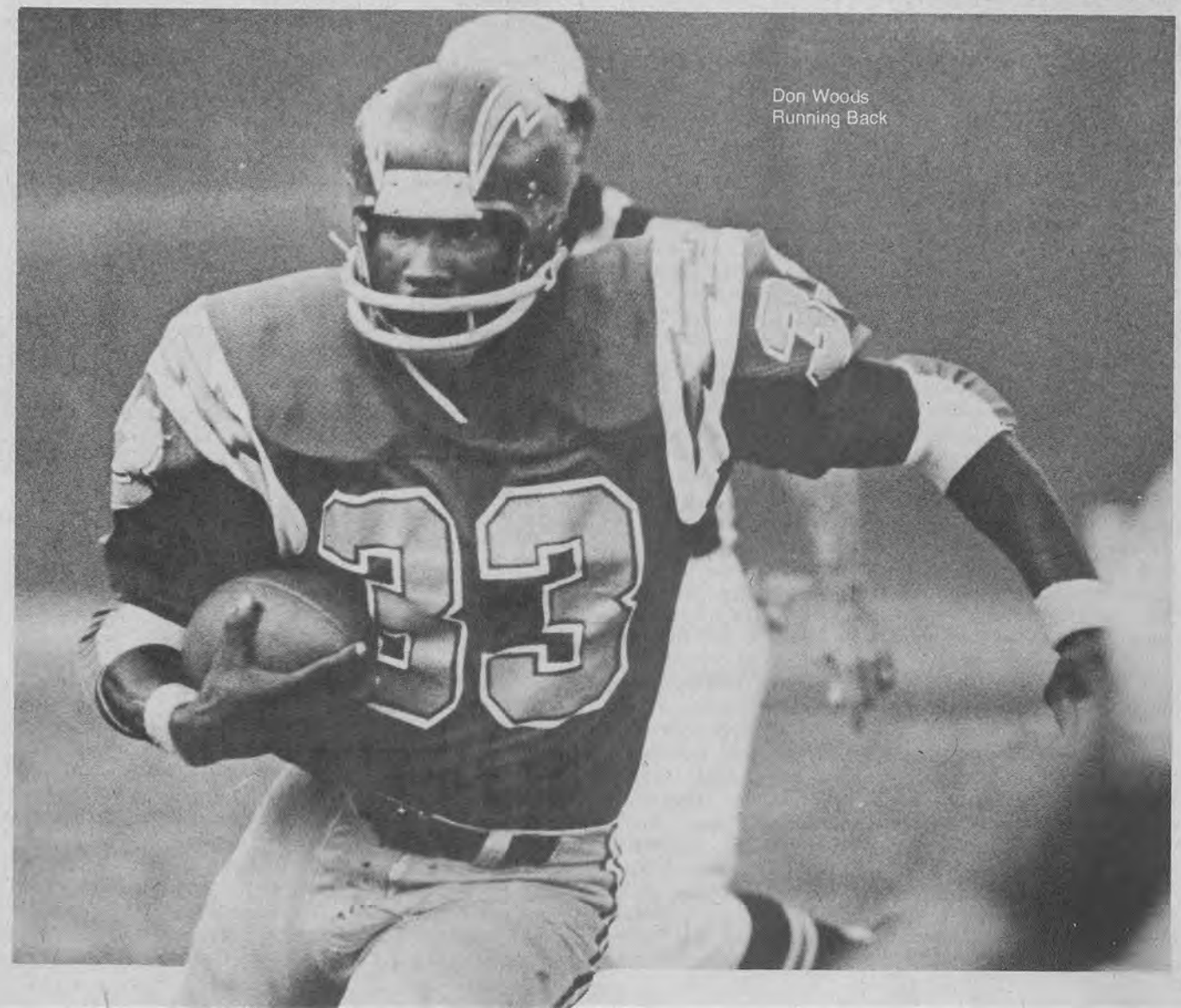
EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 4—Seattle Seahawks at Seattle Kingdome (N)
Aug. 12—Los Angeles Rams at Los Angeles Coliseum (N)
Aug. 19— New York Jets at San Diego (N)
Aug. 26— New York Giants at Giants Stadium, N.J. (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Seattle (30-28)
S. 10 OAKLAND (12-7)
S. 17 Denver (9-17)
S. 24 GREEN BAY
O. 1 New England (20-24)
O. 8 DENVER (14-17)
O. 15 MIAMI (14-13)
O. 22 Detroit
1977 Record: 7-7

O. 29 Oakland (0-24)
N. 5 CINCINNATI (24-3)
N. 12 KANSAS CITY (16-27)
N. 19 Minnesota
N. 26 Kansas City (23-7)
D. 4 CHICAGO N-TV
D. 10 SEATTLE
D. 17 Houston



Doug Wilkerson
Guard

than in 1976 and the least points in San Diego history with 205.

The pass rushing ends, Leroy Jones and Fred Dean command respect. Jones is a mean, lean 6-8 and 245. If Prothro stays with the 4-3 defense which worked for him last year, the tackles would figure to be Louie Kelcher and Gary Johnson, with Woodrow Lowe, Don Goode and Tom Graham backing up the line. Lowe and Graham play the outsides. The linebackers are generally considered to be young—and experienced, like the men in front of them, and, if they continue to develop, strong defenses can be expected to continue at San Diego. Did you know that the Chargers sacked the quarterback 44 times, and that was tops in Charger history, not to mention third in the conference. The linebackers and the charging line had a great deal to do with the sturdy pass defense of 1977

Naturally, the deep backs had something to do with it, as well. The secondary is another defensive spot that is beginning to show a combination of youth and experience that one always likes to see on one's team. The bump and run and deep pass alert were a combination that helped the Chargers intercept 21 passes while permitting a 52.1% pass completion record by all opponents. Mike Williams played the left corner and Hal Stringert the right most of 1977. Stringert became a key man to the Charger offense by returning 64 interceptions 64 yards, which couldn't hurt the field position situation. Williams grabbed three. Tall Keith King missed his rookie year last year with knee surgery but could be a vital aid on one of the corners. Clarence Duren is the free safety. He made four interceptions. Mike Fuller, on the strong side, led the team with five. He averaged 12.2 yards per interception return and also did most of the punt returning. Chalk up a few yards to improved field position to him. Jerome Dove and Pete Shaw are in reserve.

1977 CHARGERS STATISTICS

	Chargers	Opps.
Total Points Scored	222	205
Total First Downs	235	228
Third Down Efficiency	39.7	36.9
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1761-93	1927-102
Passes Att-Completed	369-206	330-172
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2244-121	1725-105
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	24-198	44-363
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	21-15.1	20-5.5
Punts-Average Yards	73-37.1	76-40.6
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	46-11.3	40-9.5
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	39-18.8	47-20.3
Fumbles-Ball Lost	29-11	28-10
Penalties-Yards	97-813	87-531

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Benirschke	0	21-25	17-23	72
Joiner	6	0	0	36
Young	4	0	0	24
Fuller	2	0	0	12
Harris	2	0	0	12
Dean	2	0	0	12
Woods	2	0	0	12
Dorsey	2	0	0	12
Williams, C.	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Young	157	543	3.5	15	4
Woods	118	405	3.4	29	1
Washington, J.	62	217	3.5	19	0
Williams, C.	50	215	4.3	46	2
Matthews	43	193	4.5	22	0
Barnes	24	70	2.9	7	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Harris	211	109	1240	51.7	11	78	5
Fouts	109	69	869	63.3	6	67	4
Munson	31	20	225	64.5	1	28	1
Olander	16	7	76	43.8	2	15	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Young	48	423	8.8	28	0
Joiner	35	542	15.5	32	6
Washington, J.	31	244	7.9	29	0
Klein	20	244	12.2	41	1
Woods	18	218	12.1	78	1
McDonald	13	174	13.4	22	0
Rodgers	12	187	15.6	43	0
Dorsey	10	198	19.8	67	2
Curran	10	123	12.3	20	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Fuller	5	61	12.2	37	0
Stringert	4	64	16.0	29	0
Duren	4	45	11.3	25	0
Williams, M.	3	36	12.0	36	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
West	72	2707	37.6	59	1

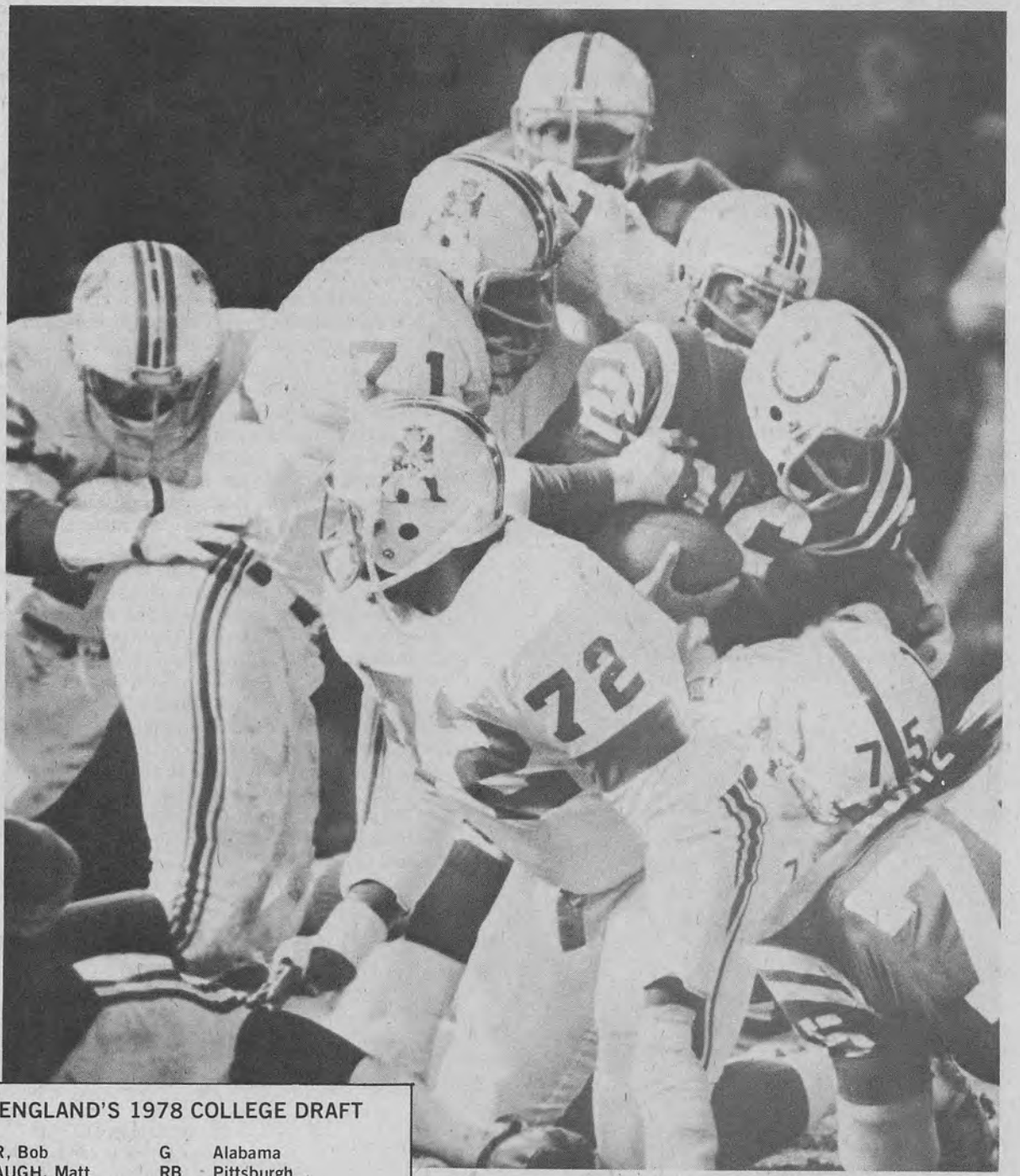
Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Fuller	28	2	360	12.9	88	1
Rodgers	15	0	158	10.5	52	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Williams, C.	24	481	20.0	32	0
Owens	8	132	16.5	19	0
Rodgers	4	66	16.5	33	0

The Chargers scored four touchdowns on returns. So that was a real part of their attack last year. It was an area where Johnny Rodgers shined, returning 15 punts at 10.5 yards a crack. Clarence Williams was the main kickoff returner, hustling 24 back for 20 yards a copy. Jeff West got 72 punts off, at 37.6 yards each, and placekicker Rolf Benirschke kicked 21 of 25 PATs and five out of five of the 30 field goals he tried from inside the 30. ●

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Getting the Marbles Back On the Table



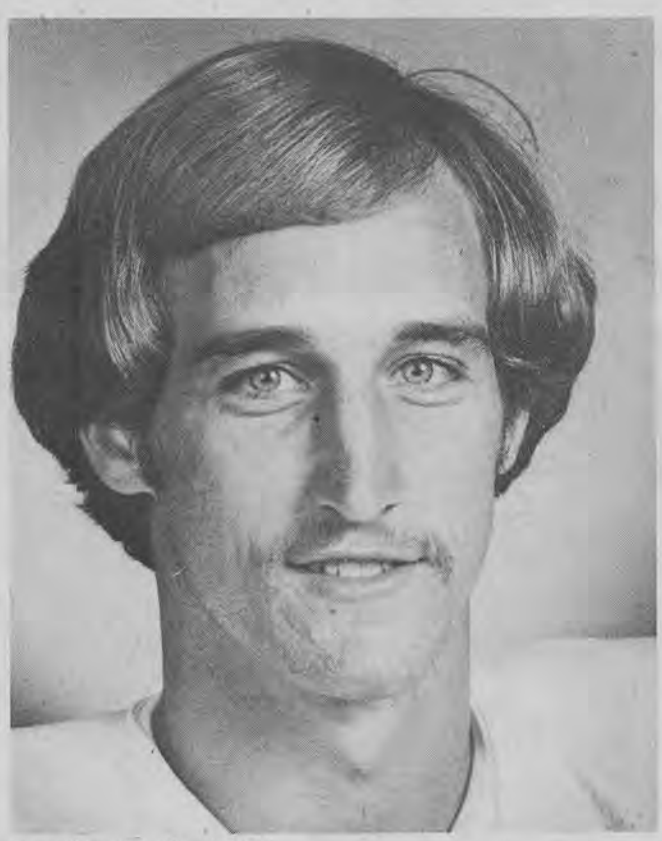
New England defenders Mel Lunsford (72) and Raymond Hamilton (71) join in stopping Colts' Lydell Mitchell. (Photo by Thomas J. Croke)

NEW ENGLAND'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

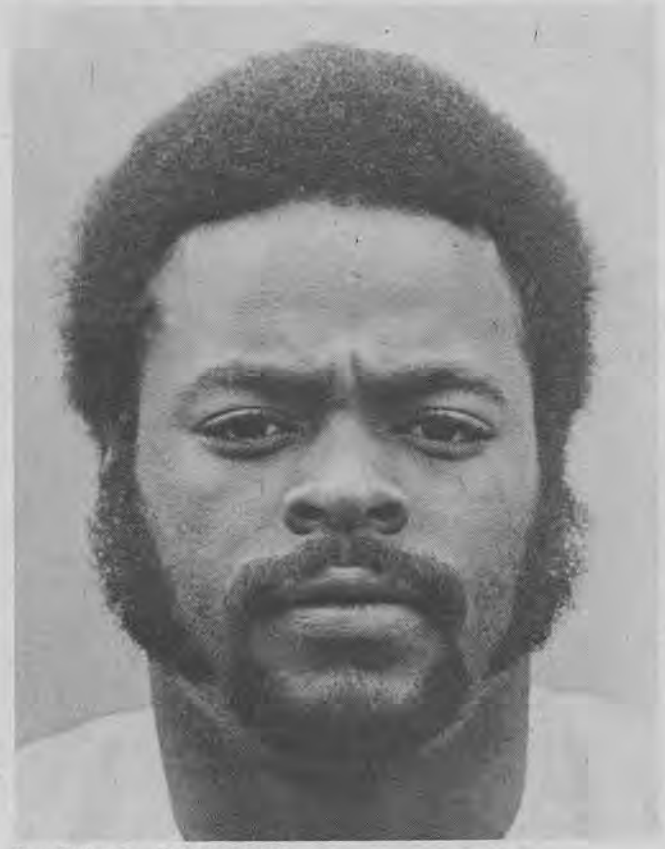
1.	CRYDER, Bob	G	Alabama
2.	CAVANAUGH, Matt	RB	Pittsburgh
3.	PENNYWELL, Carlos	WR	Grambling
4.	WHEELER, Dwight	T	Tennessee State
5.	MATTHEWS, Bill	LB	South Dakota State
6.	COLEMAN, Kem	LB	Mississippi
7.	HAWKINS, Mike	LB	Texas A&I
8.	FALCON, Terry	G	Montana
8.	TATUPU, Mosi	RB	Southern California
9.	PETERSEN, Tim	LB	Arizona State
10.	FERGUSON, Bryan	DB	Miami (Fla.)
11.	WILLIAMS, Charlie	LB	Florida
12.	GIBNEY, John	C	Colgate

By CHUCK FAIRBANKS
Head Coach
New England Patriots

The 1977 season was somewhat of a disappointment to me because our team never quite reached its full potential. We had set a goal for ourselves to regain a playoff spot and we were unable to do that. There were times during the



Steve Grogan Quarterback



Don Calhoun Running Back

season where our team played very well and other times when we played poorly. This inconsistency hurt.

We got off to a bad start by losing two of our first three games and that left no margin for error the rest of the way. However on the bright side, despite the poor start and the uphill fight that confronted our team, we were able to stay competitive and had a chance to make the playoffs while facing our two prime Eastern Division foes (Miami and Baltimore) in the last two games. We had an excellent game against Miami, and we were hoping that all the marbles would be on the table in the finale against Baltimore. But, because of a quirk in the tie-breaking rules, the Colts lost to Detroit, eliminating us from our divisional and playoff hopes.

In 1977 our defensive team played very well throughout, probably the best overall defensive performance during my career with the Patriots. The offensive team made improvement in the passing game, and our special teams were outstanding in punt and kickoff returns.

The Eastern Division of the AFC will again be one of the strongest divisions in pro football. Defending champion Baltimore, a team much like our own in terms of age and experience, is certainly the team to beat. Miami made a strong improvement in '77 as I predicted a year ago at this time.

So far as the overall schedule is concerned, 1978 will be the first year under the new scheduling format of four pre-season games and an increase in regular season games from 14 to 16. It will be very important for our team to be lucky in the area of injuries in order to sustain itself at a high level throughout this extended season. There will be some very difficult games this year, particularly crucial will be the road games against the Dallas Cowboys, the Oakland Raiders and Cincinnati Bengals.

QUARTERBACK: We are in good shape at this position with Steve Grogan and Tom Owen. In 1977 Steve matured a great deal as a pro quarterback, his third year in professional football. Our objective at this time is to have him continue to learn and to show a reduction in errors as his experience and maturity begins to show. All of our coaches and players have a great deal of confidence in Tom, and in the event something should happen to Steve I think all of us would feel confident that Tom could go in and do a first class job.

RUNNING BACKS: This is the strong area on our team and will be helped tremendously in '78 by the return of Andy Johnson who missed the entire '77 season with an injury. Also at the halfback position we will have Ike Forte and, hopefully, the '78 season will allow Horace Ivory's ability to blossom. Sam Cunningham had his finest season as a pro in '77 gaining 1015 yards and is definitely one of our most outstanding players. Don Calhoun, who has the ability to play both fullback and halfback, did an outstanding job moving to the halfback position last year and gives us the versatility in our backfield. Veteran Jess Phillips also helps in versatility because he can swing from halfback to fullback to give us the reserve strength I feel is necessary.

1978 PATRIOTS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Los Angeles Rams at Los Angeles Coliseum (N)
Aug. 12—Oakland Raiders at Oakland (N)
Aug. 20—Kansas City Chiefs at Foxboro, Mass.
Aug. 27—Cleveland Browns at Foxboro, Mass. (TV)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 WASHINGTON	**O. 29 NY JETS (24-13)**
S. 10 St. Louis	**N. 5 Buffalo (20-7)**
S. 18 BALTIMORE N-TV (17-3)	**N. 12 HOUSTON**
S. 24 Oakland N-TV	**N. 19 NY Jets (27-30)**
O. 1 SAN DIEGO	**N. 26 Baltimore TV (24-30)**
O. 8 PHILADELPHIA (14-6)	**D. 3 Dallas TV**
O. 15 Cincinnati	**D. 10 BUFFALO (14-24)**
O. 22 MIAMI (14-10)	**D. 18 Miami N-TV (5-17)**
1977 Record: 9-5	

OFFENSIVE LINE: This has been a strong point on our football team and I feel that it should continue in this vein. The most notable improvement during 1977 was in pass protection where we had a league-leading 14 quarterback sacks against us. This is the best performance by our offensive line since I've been with the Patriots. Overall the offensive line play was not quite as good as it was in '76.

RECEIVERS: Among our wide receivers, Darryl Stingley had his finest year ever. Rookie Stanley Morgan showed improvement game by game during the course of the season, making many outstanding plays. In reserve, both Steve Burks and Don Westbrook have done a good job. At tight end, we are very strong with All-Pro Russ Francis, backed up by rookie Don Hasselbeck and veteran Al Chandler.

DEFENSIVE LINE: Had a very good year in '77. Julius Adams remained injury free and had the most playing time of all of our defensive linemen. Ray Hamilton and Richard Bishop both played very well at the middle guard position. Mel Lunsford had a good year but not quite as good as '76 as he was hampered some by injury. Tony McGee, who has been an outstanding pass rusher during the last three seasons, had an equally outstanding season pass rushing in 1977. We were encouraged with the play of rookie defensive lineman Greg Boyd.

LINEBACKER: Another strong area for us. On the inside, Steve Nelson, Sam Hunt and Ray Costict all made good contributions, but I think Steve had a particularly outstanding season. On the outside, Steve Zabel probably had his best year as a pro. Pete Barnes played very well on the outside but was hampered by an injury during the latter part of the season. Rod Shoate had his best year as a pro as was able to go injury free for the first time. Steve King had some starting assignments and also spot duty in special situations.

SECONDARY: Another strong area. Mike Haynes again was selected for the Pro Bowl after another fine season which was not quite as spectacular as his rookie year. Tim Fox in his second year had his best season. At left corner, veteran Bob Howard and Raymond Clayborn, who was drafted in the first round a year ago, turned in fine performances. Prentice McCray, veteran at strong safety, played well and was ably backed up by Dick Conn and Doug Beaudoin. Clayborn, of course, was the NFL's leading kickoff return man.

KICKING: John Smith had a very good year on extra points and field goals. I would like to see improvement in the area of kickoffs. But we expect another good year from him in 1978. In '76 Mike Patrick had an outstanding year, but in 1977 his production fell off. I realize Mike has the ability to be an outstanding punter in our league and I believe he will return to form in '78.

Steve Nelson
Linebacker

I am pleased with the addition of three new coaches on our staff. Jim Ringo will be working with our offensive line, Raymond Berry with our passing game and wide receivers, and Fritz Shurmur who will be working with our defensive line. Combining these three new men with the veteran coaches who remain on our staff, I believe, gives us the most experience and talented staff overall that we have had during the five years that I have been with the New England Patriots. ●

1977 PATRIOTS STATISTICS

	Patriots	Opps.
Total Points Scored	278	217
Total First Downs	247	215
Third Down Efficiency	49.2	37.7
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2303-132	1605-86
Passes Att-Completed	305-160	356-188
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2007-101	2033-111
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	14-155	59-471
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	19-10.2	21-13.3
Punts-Average Yards	65-36.2	78-39.1
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	43-10.0	33-8.2
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	39-27.0	52-20.9
Fumbles-Ball Lost	28-15	20-10
Penalties-Yards	112-931	7-610

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Smith	0	33-33	15-21	78
Stingley	6	0	0	36
Cunningham	5	0	0	30
Calhoun	4	0	0	24
Francis	4	0	0	24
Hasselbeck	4	0	0	24
Clayborn	3	0	0	18
Morgan	3	0	0	18
Forte	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Cunningham	270	1015	3.8	31	4
Calhoun	198	727	3.7	25	4
Forte	62	157	2.5	16	2
Grogan	61	324	5.3	41	1

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Grogan	305	160	2162	52.4	21	68	17

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Cunningham	42	370	8.8	35	1
Stingley	39	657	16.8	68	5
Morgan	21	443	21.1	64	3
Francis	16	229	14.3	31	4
Calhoun	13	152	11.7	47	0
Hasselbeck	9	76	8.4	21	4

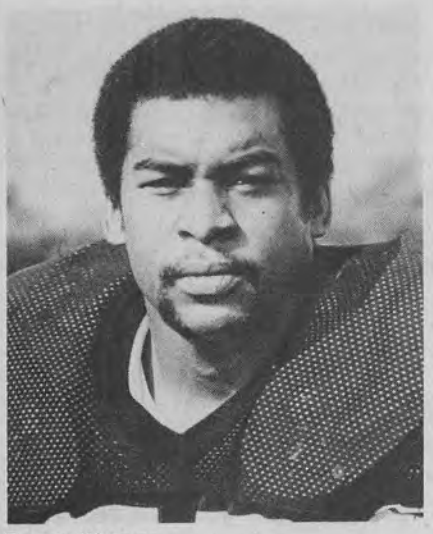
Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Haynes	5	54	10.8	22	0
McCray	4	61	15.2	48	0
Howard	4	10	2.2	6	0
Fox	3	39	13.0	27	0
Hunt	2	17	8.5	10	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Patrick	65	2354	36.2	64	3

Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Morgan	16	2	220	13.8	53	0
Haynes	24	2	200	8.3	46	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Clayborn	28	869	31.0	101	3
Phillips	6	93	15.5	22	0
Beaudoin	4	73	18.3	30	0

Archie Griffin speeds up to get away from Denver's Lyle Alzado.



Reggie Williams
Linebacker

Lemar Parrish
Cornerback

1978 BENGALS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Tampa (N)
Aug. 12—Detroit Lions at Cincinnati (N)
Aug. 19—Chicago Bears at Cincinnati (N)
Aug. 26—Green Bay Packers at Milwaukee (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 KANSAS CITY (27-7)
S. 10 Cleveland (10-7)
S. 17 PITTSBURGH (17-10)
S. 24 NEW ORLEANS
O. 1 San Francisco
O. 9 Miami N-TV (23-17)
O. 15 NEW ENGLAND
O. 22 Buffalo
1977 Record: 8-6

O. 29 HOUSTON (13-10 OT)
N. 5 San Diego (3-24)
N. 13 OAKLAND N-TV
N. 19 Pittsburgh (14-20)
N. 26 Houston (16-21)
D. 3 ATLANTA
D. 11 Los Angeles N-TV
D. 17 CLEVELAND (3-13)

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Still Trying For A Piece of Playoff Action

The 1978 Bengals are determined to land a spot in the NFL Playoffs after missing out by a game in each of the last two seasons. Head Coach Bill (Tiger) Johnson's Bengals have posted 10-4 and 8-6 records in the American Football Conference's Central Division but have been unable to get into the playoff action.

Johnson, entering his third season as head coach, was very impressed last season with the play of defensive tackles Eddie Edwards and Wilson Whitley, both first round selections a year ago. "Eddie Edwards was the best rookie defensive lineman I have ever seen," says Johnson who has been in professional football for 32 years.

Another impressive rookie was big Pete Johnson who led the Cincinnatians in rushing with 585 yards on 153 carries. Johnson and Archie Griffin team up in the backfield to form the "Ohio State Connection." Cincinnati missed All-Pro wide receiver Isaac Curtis who was side-lined with a knee injury suffered in midseason. This has been corrected and the swift, sure fingered receiver is ready to go at full speed.

"I'm looking forward to having Isaac back and ready," said Johnson. "He means so much to the club. He's a splendid player and a 'big play' man. I'm also happy with the progress made by Billy Brooks the last half of the season." Brooks, a number one draft choice in 1976, caught 39 passes for 772 yards and four touchdowns. He was the Bengals' leading pass receiver.

Here is a position-by-position look at the Bengals:

QUARTERBACKS The all-important quarterback position is in the capable hands of Ken Anderson, one of the League's top passers and field generals. The strong-armed Anderson, pinpoint passer, is entering his eighth NFL season. Anderson's ability and leadership qualities are exceptional and his long bombs to receiver Isaac Curtis are feared throughout the league's secondaries. John Reaves, an NFL quarterback of seven years experience provides the back-up. Mike Wells serves as the Bengals' third quarterback.

RECEIVING The receiving corps in anxiously awaiting the return of all-pro Isaac Curtis who underwent knee surgery during the off-season. Curtis, one of the premier receivers in the NFL, missed half of the 1977 season and his loss severely hampered the Bengals in their late drive for a playoff berth. With a healthy Curtis the club will present a gifted group of receivers. Billy Brooks was outstanding in 1977, catching 39 for 772 yards and four touchdowns. The swift, springy Brooks, a first round draft choice in 1976, is likely to team with Curtis at the wide receiver spots. Punter Pat McInally logged considerable playing time late last season and scored the game-winning touchdown against Pittsburgh. McInally and veteran John McDaniel will be challenging for starting jobs.

The tight end spot is wide open since the retirement of Bob Trumpy who holds virtually all Cincinnati pass receiving records. Three young candidates for the job are big Mike Cobb, a first round draft choice in 1977; Jim Corbett who was impressive as a rookie, and Rick Walker who showed potential but was plagued by injuries. All have but a year's pro experience.

RUNNING BACKS The Bengals had a bevy of fine running backs in 1977 but seemed to settle on a couple of Ohio Staters—Archie Griffin and Pete Johnson—midway through the season. This young duo should get better with experience. Johnson, a second round draft choice in 1977, led the club in rushing with 583 yards on 152 carries for a 3.8 average and four TDs. Griffin was second and his totals were 549 yards on 137 carries for a 4.0 average. Backing up the ex-Buckeyes are hard-running Boobie Clark, a veteran of five campaigns; Tony Davis, also a top-flight special teams player, who returns punts among other things, and the versatile Lenvil Elliott, who is a fine runner and excels as a pass receiver. Kick return specialist Willie Shelby also can be used at running back.

OFFENSIVE LINE Certain adjustments will be made here due to the retirement of John Shinners who teamed with Glenn Bujnoch as the messenger guards. Three-year veteran Greg Fairchild will likely replace Shinners and share the messenger job with Bujnoch. Dave Lapham is solid at the other guard post. Vernon Holland, a near miss as all-pro several times, and the talented Rufus Mayes give the Bengals experience, size and skill at tackle. They are backed up by Ron Hunt who performed well late in the 1977 campaign when stepping in for the injured Mayes. Bob Johnson mans the center spot just as he has for 10 seasons for Cincinnati. Johnson, the first player ever drafted by the Bengals, is the team's offensive captain. Lapham serves as a backup at center.

DEFENSIVE LINE The Bengals have a young, rugged, hard-nosed defensive line. Two rookies, Eddie Edwards and Wilson Whitley, both first round draft choices last year, manned the tackle posts in '77 and did well by all

(Continued on page 92)

CINCINNATI'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. BROWNER, Ross	DT	Notre Dame
1. BUSH, Blair	C	Washington
2. GRIFFIN, Ray	DB	Ohio State
2. TURNER, Dave	RB	San Diego State
3. VINCENT, Ted	DT	Wichita State
3. BASS, Don	WR	Houston
4. LAW, Dennis	WR	East Tennessee
5. DINKEL, Tom	LB	Kansas
5. HERTEL, Rob	RB	Southern California
6. GEISE, Steve	RB	Penn State
7. BRANSON, Joe	DB	Livingstone
7. BASS, Dan	G	Elon
8. MILLER, Bill	T	Western Illinois
9. SHUMON, Ron	LB	Wichita State
10. DE PASO, Tom	LB	Penn State
11. PRINCE, Calvin	RB	Louisville
11. DONAHUE, Mark	G	Michigan
12. FEATSENT, Kim	WR	Kent State

Ken Anderson
Quarterback

...SIT BACK, RELAX...
I'M GOING TO MAKE
YOU A MILLIONAIRE.
If you can learn how to be a bad sport
and bet my way, I'll show you how
to steal Las Vegas blind!

Settle back into your easy chair and start getting used to a new idea.

YOU are going to make a LOT of money.

You won't have to read a book, take a course, learn a method or memorize a system.

All you have to do is bet the way I tell you. And with a regularity that will astound and delight you, every Monday and Tuesday you will find yourself banking nice green $50's and $100's ...or maybe $500's and $1,000's.

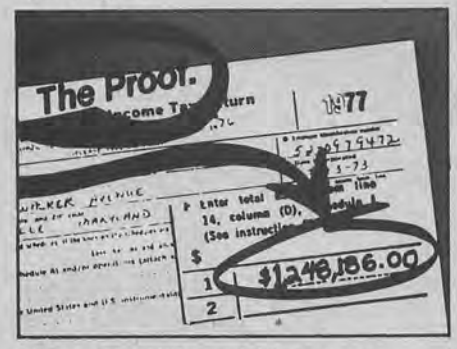
In fact, you can build yourself a fortune if you're willing to read every word of this ad with an open mind.

I'm not exaggerating. I know what I'm talking about.

My name is Mike Warren. If you know anything about throughbred racing, you should know who I am. If not, let me tell you.

Many people in the stable set consider me the country's Number One handicapper. I win over 60% of the time (In racing that's unheard of). I am in the money 8 days out of 10. On a weekly basis, I never lose.

To prove it, herewith is a reproduction of my IRS for 1977. Please note the gross income figure.



$1,248,186.! All from picking winners.

Okay, so what does this have to do with football?

First of all, I am neither a racing person nor a football person. I am a MONEY Person. I'll handicap a game of tiddlewinks if I think I have an edge. And I don't care which side wins as long as *I* win.

So, much as I love football, I don't lay down dime number one till I've *got* that edge. And that means spadework and meticulous preparation.

People know this about me. So it's not surprising that about the time the football season cranks up I start getting calls from long time customers who feel they can tap me for a freebie.

"Say, Mike, the Las Vegas line give Oakland minus 7 over New England. Does that sound right?

"Too many points," I say, "even on paper. The key is the 3-4 defense. It's going to give the Pats the edge. Don't forget, Houston almost beat the Raiders with the 3-4 a few weeks ago. Plus the Pats have the home advantage. The line is nutsy. I look for the Pats to win outright." (Final score: New England 48, Oakland 17)*

Multiply that incident by a few hundred and you know why I decided this time last year to offer my selections to the public.

Accordingly I set up Mike Warren's All Pro Football Forecast for the '77-'78 season and tested my picks with a small group of knowledgeable bettors.

The results amazed even me:

MY BEST BETS (sent out by newsletter four days before game time) WERE 74.4% ACCURATE AGAINST THE SPREAD.

MY HOTLINE SELECTIONS picks (given by telephone the morning of the game) did 81%.

THESE ARE THE BEST NUMBERS IN FOOTBALL.

- We were in the money 14 weeks out of 15.
- In post season play, we got 4 out of the 5 college bowl games we hammered on.
- In NFL playoffs we got 6 out of 8.

At one point we were over 90%. A friend of mine called me up ecstatic. He had won THOUSANDS.

"Mike," he said, "you're **fantastic.** I've used every hotline in the business. Nobody does 90%. And they charge $500 and $1000."

So be it. I'm going the **other way.** I'm structuring a plan that lets **everybody** get into the act...as you'll see. Meantime, you may be wondering...

"How come he's that accurate"

It's no accident. There's no magic. The psychic factor is practically nil. (You've got no right playing hunches till you've done your homework.) What does it is hard work and knowing your business.

I have access to a computer. For *any* sport, I use a systems approach. In handicapping a horserace I want to know *everything* about a horse: his breeding, his owner, trainer and jockey, his speed and class and prior consistency, the weather, the turf, etc.

Picture this approach translated into football, where we input 50 factors into every game, including power points, individual matchups, conference and divisions strength, the schedule, run pass ratio, third down efficiency, big play coefficient, proficiency against the spread, injuries, morale, weather and many other variables including even biorhythms—and you begin to understand why my 81% Hotline accuracy was no one-time fluke,...and why this year we should do every bit as well,...and maybe better. Yes, I assure you...

We will clobber Vegas. (And why not?—all they're after is a shot at **your** money). Here's what makes them vulnerable.

Incredibly, the Vegas line is NOT that accurate. Last year for example, their record for predicting the point differentials (the spread) between winning and losing NFL teams was: 86 right...94 wrong...12 ties..and 4 passes (pick 'em). That's ONLY 47.7%!

Our Hotline Picks. How We Did: WON 50...LOST 12...80.6%!

Some Key Picks:		*What We Said:*
9/17 Ark over Ark St	10/29 N.C. over Maryland 7	1 UPSET. Ala to win outright. "All the talk this week is how great So. Calif. is Ala has played a tougher schedule. For us Ala is the best team".
9/17 Indiana over LSU	10/30 Tam Bay over S Fran	
9/18 Dallas over Minn	*11/5 Syracuse over Navy	
9/25 Denver over Buff	*11/6 St. Lous over Minn	
9/25 Cinn over Seattle	11/12 Clemson over N.D. 8	2 "By 15". Texas has the talent, depth and class to win a nat'l championship. Ark. will come up short."
10/1 Tenn over Oreg St	11/12 Miss St. over Miss	
10/2 Atl over Giants	11/13 St. Lou over Dallas	3 "No. Car. by at least a touchdown."
10/2 Pitt over Cleve	11/25 UCLA over USC	
10/8 Ala over So Calif 1	11/25 Okla over Nebr	4 "The Bears are for real. Minnesota is in for a long afternoon."
10/8 Ky over Miss St	11/27 Seattle over S.D.	
10/9 Phil over Giants	*12/3 Fla St. over Fla	5 "By 15. Look for the Cowboys simply wear Washington down and pull off an easy win."
10/9 Houston over Pitt	*12/4 LA over Oakland	
10/15 Texas over Ark 2	*12/11 Cinn over Pitt	6 "We believe Atlanta will win it outright."
10/15 No. Car over N.C. St 3	12/11 Tam Bay over N.O.	
10/16 Chic over Minn 4	12/11 Seattle over K.C.	7 UPSET. "We believe the money boys are wrong. N.C. is the best team in the Atlantic Coast Conference."
10/16 Den over Oak	12/11 Tam Bay over N.O.	
10/16 Dallas over Wash 5	12/11 Seattle over K.C.	8 Clemson almost took it outright *
10/24 Atl over Chi 6	12/18 Minn over Detr 9	
10/24 LA over Minn		9 Won by switching our pick on learning Detr. QB Landry out for game. USE THE HOTLINE!
NFL Playoffs: 6 out of 8–75%!	***College Bowls: 4 out of our 5 Best Bets–80%!***	

UPSET...PLUS another 6 upsets in my Best Bet and regular picks.

*THIS WAS '76, OF COURSE!

That's why Vegas offers its opening line to a private group of high rollers before the public sees it—to find out where the smart money is going so they can adjust the point spread accordingly.

However, smart money isn't always that smart. Many times the private line would have made them money where the public line lost it.

That's why I can beat the pants off Vegas. They **have** to adjust the line to find "the middle"—the point in the spread where, if they guess right, they make money—and if they guess wrong, they don't get hurt too badly. Consequently they have to know who's betting how much on who.

Now do you see why I said, Sit back, relax. I'm going to make you a millionaire? I actually *can*...if you'll let me!

A. I know what I'm doing. I'm a proven Winner.
B. My record last year was no fluke.
C. The "system" actually favors the bettor with even a slight winning percentage provided it's consistent.
D. I've got the winningest percentage in football!

The fact is, break even occurs at 52.4%. At 60% already you can quadruple your stake. At 65% you can net 27 times your original stake! You take it from there...just keep one number in mind: 81%....PROVEN!

Either way, you'll want to investigate pyramiding further, so I am sending you, as a bonus,

your copy of my new book. It explains in detail how you can systematically snowball your starting stake—whether it's $50 or $1,000—into 30, 40 and even 50 times its size: "POWER PYRAMIDING. HOW TO SCORE BIG IN FOOTBALL."

MY "50-POWER PYRAMID". How it worked last year: HOW $80...BECAME...$4,764!

Let's say you bet only $20 a game on each of our Hotline games the first week and then banked one half of your first week's winnings and added the other half to your stake for the following week—and continued doing so for the rest of the season and into the post season. Here's how you would have bet...and WON...NEED I SAY MORE?

Week	Stake	Bet g Unit	W/L	Won	Lost	Net	Half	Banked
1. (9/17)	$ 80	$ 20	4/0	$ 80	$ 0	$ 80	$ 40	$ 40
2. (9/24)	$ 120	$ 40	3/0	$ 120	$ 0	$ 120	$ 60	$ 100
3. (10(1)	$ 180	$ 36	4/1	$ 144	$ 40	$ 104	$ 52	$ 152
4. (10/8)	$ 232	$ 58	3/1	$ 174	$ 64	$ 110	$ 56	$ 206
5. (10/15)	$ 288	$ 96	3/0	$ 288	$ 0	$ 288	$144	$ 350
6. (10/22)	$ 432	$ 72	5/1	$ 360	$ 79	$ 281	$140	$ 491
7. (10/29)	$ 572	$143	3/1	$ 429	$157	$ 272	$136	$ 627
8. (11/5)	$ 708	$177	3/1	$ 531	$195	$ 336	$168	$ 795
9. (11/12)	$ 876	$219	1/3	$ 219	$723	$ 504	—	$ 795
10. (11/19)	$ 372	$124	3/0	$ 372	$ 0	$ 372	$186	$ 981
11. (11/26)	$ 560	$140	3/1	$ 420	$154	$ 266	$133	$1114
12. (12/3)	$ 695	$139	4/1	$ 556	$153	$ 403	$200	$1373
13. (12/10)	$ 895	$179	4/1	$ 716	$197	$ 519	$260	$1631
14. (12/17)	$1156	$289	3/1	$ 867	$318	$ 549	$275	$1908
15. (12/24)	$1428	$357	4/0	$1428	$ 0	$1428	—	—
	$1428		50/12			$1428		$1908

That's close to 60 TIMES YOUR ORIGINAL STAKE... or a winning percentage of 5,955%!

Net winning last week $1428
stake $1428

IMAGINE IF YOU HAD STARTED AT $100 A GAME! **TOTAL $4,764**

Act Now

If you're going to pass, pass for the right reason: you don't bet or you're stone broke.

But if you bet at all...whether it's the big action or the office pool, *my method is foolproof.* NO WAY can I fail to deliver at least a high enough—and consistent enough—percentage for you to SCORE BIGGER THAN YOUR HAVE EVER SCORED BEFORE.

Imagine! Money to put your kids through college. To start your own business. To buy a lovely home, a new car, a boat...To establish your independence...hey, I don't have to stroke you with visions of what real money can do for you.

In fact, I don't want to. Human nature is funny...By now, 9 out of 10 readers have already turned the page. That's fine by me. Let's not kill the golden goose. Just give me a handful fo smart bettors—intelligent individuals who still have the sense they were born with.

That way you and I can collect our nice, crisp new $50's and $100's every weekend, and by the time Vegas figures out what's going on, they won't be able to do a thing about it!

If coupon is removed, write me direct c/o Baltimore Bulletin, 23-25 Walker Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208.

Me—I pay no attention to any of that. (After all, there are guys out there who bet against the Raiders because they don't like black jerseys or who bet the Browns because Uncle Louie lives in Cleveland—c'mon!) I take the position *I'm* the smart money.

Do you understand what I'm saying? BECAUSE VEGAS *MUST* RESPOND TO THE DIRECTION OF BETTING ACTION. THEY *CANNOT* BE AS ACCURATE AS THE SMART INDEPENDENT HANDICAPPER.

And that's why Vegas is ripe for the taking. And here's how you and I are going to do it:

The Pyramid! That's right. Racing gives you those juicy $20 and $30 horses every so often. But football is an even money proposition: bet $100 to win $100. So how do we make *real* money?....The Pyramid is the answer! Sure, in racing, where you have an 87.5% chance of losing, pyramiding can kill you.

But in football—where you've got an even shot—IF YOU CAN BANK ON A REASONABLY CONSISTENT WINNING PERCENTAGE, PYRAMIDING CAN MAKE YOU A FORTUNE...AND I CAN PROVE IT!

Take a look at the table above. It shows that if you have bet just $20 on each of my 4 Hotline picks the first week of the season—that's $80 in total—and had bet my Hotline thereafter according to my simple pyramiding procedure—YOU WOULD HAVE WOUND UP WITH **$4,764! And I can verify it.**

(I explain all this in more detail in my book, which you'll get as a bonus. Read on...)

Okay, So Are You Ready... Here's My Deal:

Like my friend said, some hotlines charge you $500 or $1,000 for a couple of picks a week and can't touch my 81%. I'm going to give you a whole lot more for a whole lot less because I want you as a steady customer who'll stay with me year in and year out. (You'll get your million—and it won't take that long!)

Here is my offer:

If you're an experienced bettor (and you *know* I'm offering you the best deal in football):

- I will give you at least 6 selections a week for the entire 13 Week College season and the newly expanded 16 week NFL schedule. Each Wednesday I will mail you my NEWSLETTER containing my BEST BETS—selections that did 74.4% last season...Each Saturday and Sunday you will call me on my private number so I can give you my 81% accurate HOTLINE PICKS, selections where by waiting till the last minute for late breaking information WE CAN SCORE BIG.

Fee: $100

If you're not absolutely certain (or you can't spring for the whole tab):

- I will give you the same service as outlined above, but for a two week trial period. I guarantee you at least 12 selections for that period—that's 12 chances to win back your stake and join up for the rest fo the season!

Fee: $20

Dear Mike, SQ78

You're right! I **dare not** turn down your offer—it makes too much sense!

☐ **Sign me up for the two week initial period. Send me your Newsletter with your "BEST BET" picks that did 74.7% last season. Send me your telephone HOTLINE number so I can get your 81% picks, too! I promise not to share your selections with other bettors, and you have my assurance that if I win, I'll come aboard as a full time subscriber. Fee $20.**

☐ **I don't want to run the risk of missing a week or two of selections. Enroll me now for the whole deal—Newsletter and Hotline for the full season. Fee $100.**

And please rush me my copy of "POWER PYRAMIDING: HOW TO SCORE BIG IN FOOTBALL."

☐ Enclosed is my check ☐ Bill my credit card

☐ Visa/BankAmericard
☐ American Express
☐ Master Charge

Card Number:_____

Expiration Date:_____

Signature_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

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Please do not send cash through the mails.

Jerry Anderson
Cornerback

(Continued from page 89)

standards. These two young players make the Bengals highly optimistic about the future of their defensive line.

The end spots are handled by veterans Coy Bacon and Gary Burley. Bacon excels at rushing the quarterback and has been a Pro Bowl selection the last two years. Burley, a spirited third-year man, is big and has tremendous speed. He gave a top-notch performance in 1977.

LINEBACKERS Middle linebacker Jim LeClair, entering his sixth season in the NFL, heads this group. Flanking LeClair at outside linebacker spots are Bo Harris, who has three seasons behind him and is coming off a good year, and the exciting Reggie Williams who has firmly established himself after two campaigns. Backing up this trio is Glenn Cameron in the middle and Ray Phillips and Chris Devlin on the outside.

Cameron had several outstanding games in 1977 and would be a big factor if the Bengals go to the three-four defense.

Phillips played well last season as a rookie and Devlin is returning after sitting out 1977 because of knee surgery.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Cincinnati's defensive backfield features players who specialize in the big play. The corners are Lemar Parrish and Ken Riley, two of the League's best. Parrish, a strong competitor, has been named to the AFC Pro Bowl team six times, while Riley holds the club's alltime interception record with 41. The backups are young Melvin Morgan, a hitter, and Scott Perry, who was out much of 1977 with a leg injury.

The safety spots are well patrolled by Tommy Casanova, another frequent Pro Bowl selection, and the smart and canny Marvin Cobb, now entering his fourth season. After an outstanding rookie season, Jerry Anderson, a hard tackler from Oklahoma, appears ready to challenge for a starting job. Louis Breeden, a draft choice in 1977 who sat out the season with an injury, returns for another try.

KICKING Pat McInally is challenging Oakland's Ray Guy as the best punter in football. The Harvard graduate, who also is a wide receiver, finished second to Guy in punting average but led the entire NFL in net average which is determined by dividing the number of punts into the yards minus touchbacks (20 yards per touchback) and minus return yardage.

Guy's punting average was 43.3 as opposed to McInally's 41.8. But McInally had only three touchbacks and put the ball out of bounds inside the 20-yard line 16 times. Consequently, his net average of 36.4 was the best in the NFL in 1977.

Chris Bahr handles the placekicking for the Bengals and does his job well. The third-year clutch-kicker from Penn State made good on 19 of 27 field goal attempts, one from 47 yards away, and finished third in AFC scoring with 82 points. ●

1977 BENGALS STATISTICS

	Bengals	Opps.
Total Points Scored	238	235
Total First Downs	247	251
Third Down Efficiency	44.9	42.3
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1836-110	1906-113
Passes Att-Completed	385-192	351-196
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2333-112	2227-113
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	31-217	25-226
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	16-14.9	16-12.0
Punts-Average Yards	69-41.9	72-39.2
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	41-8.0	38-6.6
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	46-19.1	49-21.0
Fumbles-Ball Lost	37-16	34-23
Penalties-Yards	89-854	105-788

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Bahr	0	25-26	19-27	82
Brooks	4	0	0	24
Johnson, P.	4	0	0	24
McInally	3	0	0	18
Davis	2	0	0	12
Curtis	2	0	0	12
Williams	2	0	0	12
Anderson, K.	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Johnson, P.	152	583	3.8	65	4
Griffin	138	549	4.0	31	0
Elliott	65	269	4.1	32	0
Clark	68	226	3.3	10	1
Anderson, K.	26	128	4.9	17	2
Davis	27	81	3.0	13	2

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Anderson, K.	323	166	2145	51.4	11	94	11
Reaves	59	24	383	40.7	0	40	0

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Brooks	39	772	19.8	94	4
Elliott	29	238	8.2	33	1
Griffin	28	240	8.6	24	0
Curtis	20	338	16.9	54	2
Trumpy	18	251	13.9	32	1
McInally	17	258	15.2	43	3
McDaniel	12	148	12.3	31	0
Davis	9	83	9.2	28	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Parrish	3	95	31.7	47	1
Williams	3	67	22.3	54	1
Cobb, Mar.	2	37	18.5	34	0
Harris	2	17	8.5	10	0
Riley	2	14	7.0	14	0
LeClair	2	8	4.0	8	0

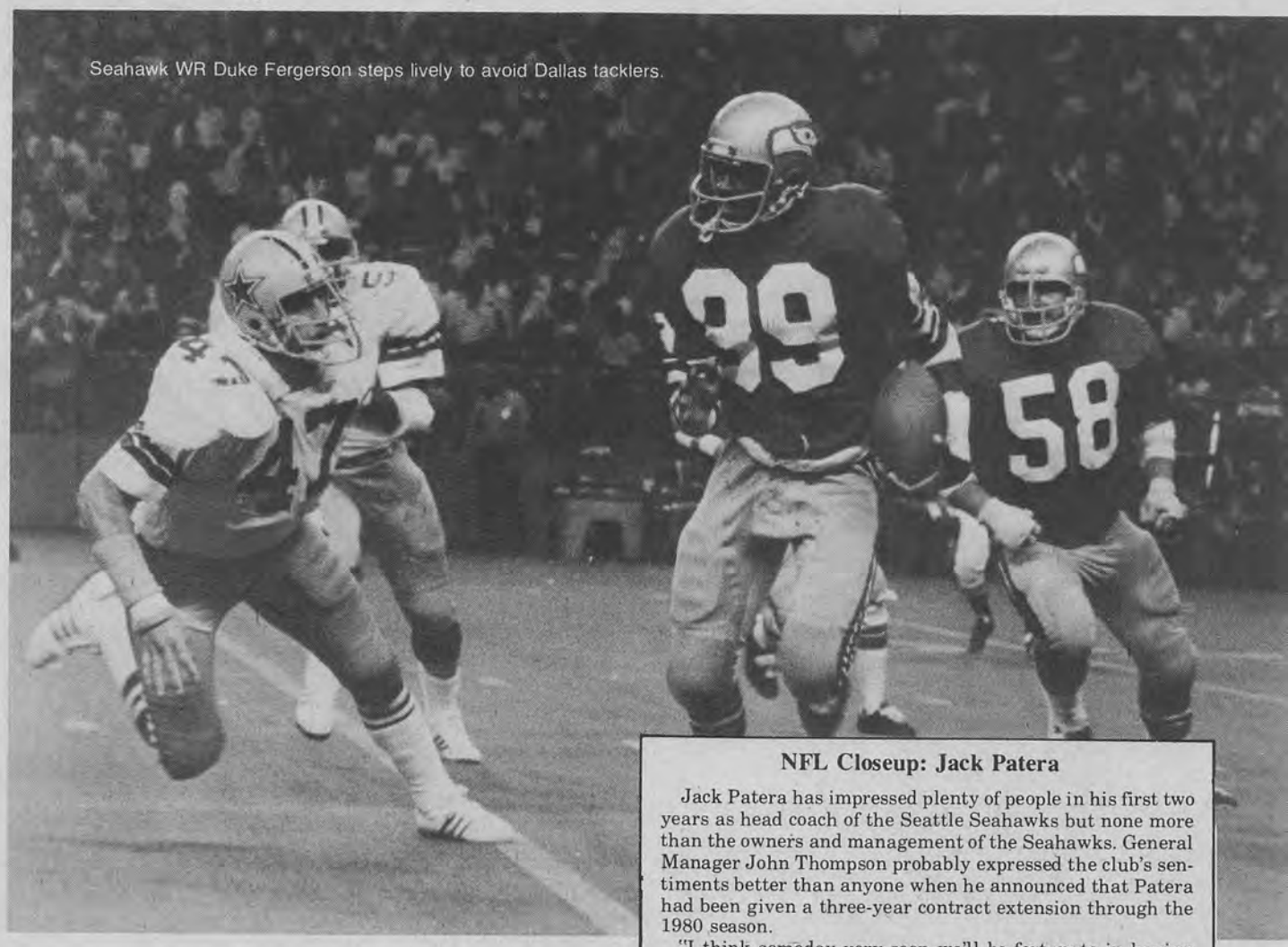
Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
McInally	67	2802	41.8	67	1
Bahr	2	88	44.0	45	0

Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Davis	19	6	220	11.6	70	0
Shelby	11	3	54	4.9	13	0
Parrish	4	0	30	7.5	11	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Shelby	19	403	21.2	38	0
Griffin	9	192	21.3	31	0
Anderson, J.	8	129	16.1	21	0
Davis	3	42	14.0	18	0

Seattle Seahawks

The Seahawks Are No Longer Pigeons



Seahawk WR Duke Fergerson steps lively to avoid Dallas tacklers.

The Seattle Seahawks are still under construction.

The foundation was laid in 1976. The frame was added in 1977. And there's still plenty of building to be done in 1978, but the finished product is starting to take shape.

In fact, it looked pretty good in 1977. Seattle won more games than any second-year expansion team in National Football League history and threw more touchdown passes than any team in the league in 1977 on its way to a 5-9 season.

"I think the improvement last year can be attributed to the fact that we had been established for a year," says head coach Jack Patera, who guided the Seahawks to a 2-12 record in their initial season. "One of the biggest things to overcome was the newness. Defensively, we lowered the points against us and we had to do that to be able to compete."

On defense, the Seahawks gave up an average of 29.5 yards per game less rushing, intercepted 25 passes, which was ten more than the year before, and gave up 56 less points.

But it was the offense that made people take notice. "Our skilled positions were probably our strength the first year and all they did was get better in the second," says

NFL Closeup: Jack Patera

Jack Patera has impressed plenty of people in his first two years as head coach of the Seattle Seahawks but none more than the owners and management of the Seahawks. General Manager John Thompson probably expressed the club's sentiments better than anyone when he announced that Patera had been given a three-year contract extension through the 1980 season.

"I think someday very soon we'll be fortunate in having the NFL's Coach of the Year," said Thompson. "But when Jack does it, I don't think it will be any greater achievement than what he did in 1977."

Thompson made the contract announcement following Seattle's final regular season game—a 20-19 victory over Cleveland that gave the Seahawks a 5-9 record. Under Patera, the Seahawks have made expansion history. Last year's five wins, after a 2-12 first season in 1976, was the most victories ever by a second-year expansion team. The Seahawks' 282 points was also a second-year expansion mark breaking Cincinnati's 280-point standard set in 1969.

Patera came to the Seahawks after seven years as the defensive line coach of the Minnesota Vikings. From 1969 through 1975, he helped the Vikings compile a 76-22 regular season record, play in three Super Bowls and four National Football Conference championship games.

Prior to breaking into coaching, he played seven seasons in the NFL as a guard and linebacker. He played with Baltimore from 1955 through 1957 after being a fourth-round draft choice. He then played with the Chicago Cardinals in 1958 and 1959 and the Dallas Cowboys in 1960 and 1961.

After a year in private business, Patera coached the Los Angeles defensive line from 1963 through 1966 and then spent two seasons as a New York Giant assistant before joining the Minnesota staff. He played his college football at the University of Oregon.

Patera. "One thing we did was put points on the board."

Seattle scored 282 points in 1977, which was eighth best in the NFL and their 56 points in the Seahawks' 56-17 win over Buffalo was the most productive scoring performance of the year. "Last year we were still a new club not projected to win many games," Patera says. "We beat four teams (Tampa Bay, New York Jets, Buffalo and Kansas City) that were about on our level and Cleveland, which is a pretty good football team. If we continue to improve, we should be able to move up a notch in competition."

Patera doesn't feel he'll have to look far for improvement. "We will really grow from within," he says. "We do have the material to make us better. People like Steve August, Steve Niehaus and Bill Sandifer didn't play much last year because of injuries."

August and Niehaus were slowed by injuries, while Sandifer broke his ankle in the regular season opener against Baltimore and was lost for the year. August, Seattle's first-round draft choice in 1977, injured his ankle prior to training camp and wasn't able to join the club until the final six games of the year.

Niehaus, who was Seattle's defensive player of the year in 1976 after being a first-round draft choice, was slow to recover from off-season shoulder surgery. Niehaus, who had started 14 games in 1976, was unable to start any in 1977 and played in just eight.

Others coming off the injured reserve list include linebackers Randy Coffield and Amos Martin, defensive linemen Horace Jones and Ruben Hodges, safeties George Adzick and Doug Long, tight end Fred Rayhle, offensive tackle Carl Van Valkenberg and running back Tony Benjamin.

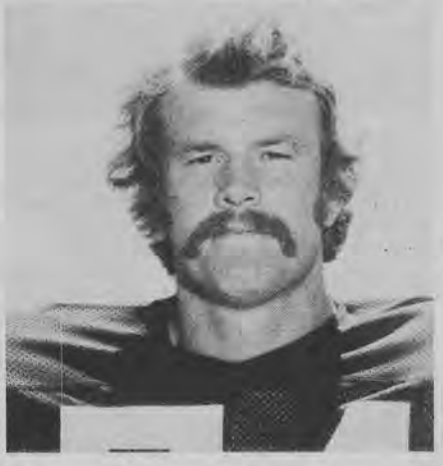
"Defensively we've got to cut down on the total points allowed again," Patera says. "That's the number one priority. Defense is a reaction type game and experience really counts there." He is looking for immediate improvement with the return of some of last year's injured players. "Coffield, Sandifer and Niehaus will strengthen our defense," he says.

Steve Niehaus
Defensive Tackle

Offensively, Patera goes into 1978 with a more comfortable feeling than a year ago. "We continued to improve on offense and now we have two young quarterbacks in Jim Zorn and Steve Myer. We have two qualified players at a very important position."

The Seahawks went into the regular season with Zorn, who was in his second season, and Myer, also a second-year player, but without any game experience. When Zorn was injured against Cincinnati, Myer came on to establish himself as a professional. The former New Mexico standout completed 70 of 130 passes for 729 yards and six touchdowns in his four starts, including a win over Tampa Bay in which he threw four touchdown passes.

Despite missing four games, Zorn had another productive year completing 104 of 251 passes for 1,683 yards and 16 touchdowns. He threw four touchdown passes against both Buffalo and San Diego. Zorn and Myer have an outstanding corps of receivers led by Steve Largent, who was voted by his teammates as the team's Most Valuable Player last year. Largent caught 33 passes for 643 yards and 10 touchdowns in 1977 to rank second to Miami's Nat Moore, who had 12, in touchdown receptions.



Ron East
Defensive Tackle

Steve August
Tackle

1978 SEAHAWKS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 4—San Diego Chargers at Seattle Kingdome (N)
Aug. 12—San Francisco 49ers at San Francisco (N)
Aug. 17—Los Angeles Rams at Seattle Kingdome (N)
Aug. 24—Chicago Bears at Seattle Kingdome (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 SAN DIEGO (28-30)	O. 29 DENVER (13-24)
S. 10 Pittsburgh (20-30)	N. 5 Chicago
S. 17 NY Jets (17-0)	N. 12 BALTIMORE (14-29)
S. 24 DETROIT	N. 19 Kansas City (34-31)
O. 1 Denver	N. 26 Oakland (7-44)
O. 8 MINNESOTA	D. 3 CLEVELAND (20-19)
O. 15 Green Bay-Mil	D. 10 San Diego
O. 22 OAKLAND	D. 17 KANSAS CITY
1977 Record: 5-9	Mil-Game at Milwaukee

SEATTLE'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. SIMPSON, Keith	DB	Memphis State
2. BUTLER, Keith	LB	Memphis State
3. JURY, Bob	DB	Pittsburgh
5. BULLARD, Louis	T	Jackson State
6. STARKS, Glenn	WR	Texas A&I
7. HARRIS, John	DB	Arizona State
9. GRIMMETT, Rich	T	Illinois
10. STEWART, Rob	WR	Lafayette
11. HALAS, George	LB	Miami (Fla.)
12. BERGERON, Jeff	RB	Lamar

Other Seattle receivers include Duke Fergerson (19 catches, 374 yards, 2 TD), Sam McCullum (nine catches, 198 yards, 1 TD), Steve Raible (five catches, 79 yards) and tight ends Ron Howard (17 catches, 177 yards, 1 TD) and John Sawyer (10 catches, 105 yards).

It was Terry Beeson at middle linebacker that helped the defense improve. The 6-3, 240-pounder was named to virtually every All-Rookie team after leading the Seahawks in tackles. Guard Tom Lynch moved into the starting lineup the last half of the season and helped form one of the best pass protecting units in the league. The Seahawks allowed less sack yardage than any other team in the American Football Conference and only St. Louis lost less in the entire league.

"We have the nucleus of a very solid offensive line," says Patera, reading off the names of Lynch, August, guard Ron Coder, center Art Kuehn, center John Yarno and veteran tackles Norm Evans and Nick Bebout.

"Our two veterans—Norm Evans and Nick Bebout—are both particularly fine players."

Along with protecting Seattle's passers, the offensive line opened holes to allow back Sherman Smith, a 6-4, 225-pounder, to average 4.7 yards per carry in just his second NFL season.

Smith gained 763 yards on 163 attempts to finish seventh in the AFC and his average was exceeded by only Chicago's Walter Payton (5.5), Dallas' Tony Dorsett (4.8) and Miami's Benny Malone (4.8) in the entire league.

Joining Smith in the backfield are Don Testerman, David Sims, Al Hunter and Benjamin.

Testerman was second on the team in both rushing and receiving with 459 yards on 119 rushing attempts and 31 pass receptions for 219 yards. Sims rushed for five touchdowns, caught three others and even passed for one touchdown, while Hunter averaged 5.5 per carry on 32 attempts.

Hunter, a former Notre Dame star who came to the Seahawks as a fourth-round draft choice in a supplemental selection process, also helped the Seahawks' kicking game by averaging 22.7 on kickoff returns to rank in a tie for seventh in the AFC.

"Our kicking game is pretty competent," says Patera. "John Leypoldt has been a fine kicker in this league for a number of years and Herman Weaver certainly helped us improve our overall kicking game."

Leypoldt had the longest field goal in the AFC last year, a 51-yarder against Houston, and Weaver finished fifth in the AFC in punting with a 39.5 average.

1977 SEAHAWKS STATISTICS

	Seahawks	Opps.
Total Points Scored	282	373
Total First Downs	251	295
Third Down Efficiency	38.5	42.7
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1964-116	2485-152
Passes Att-Completed	387-175	349-196
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2328-116	2333-125
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	21-131	18-131
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	25-14.2	32-18.5
Punts-Average Yards	64-37.9	54-35.9
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	31-7.0	41-9.0
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	73-20.5	50-24.8
Fumbles-Ball Lost	26-13	20-11
Penalties-Yards	76-666	96-794

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Largent	10	0	0	60
Leypoldt	0	33-37	9-18	60
Sims	8	0	0	48
Smith	6	0	0	36
Testerman	5	0	0	30
Fergerson	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Smith	163	763	4.7	39	4
Testerman	119	459	3.8	20	1
Sims	99	369	3.7	17	5
Hunter	32	179	5.5	20	1
Zorn	25	141	5.6	15	1
Benjamin	13	48	3.6	10	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Zorn	251	104	1683	41.4	19	82	16
Myer	130	70	729	53.8	12	45	6

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Largent	33	643	19.4	74	10
Testerman	31	219	7.0	25	4
Smith	30	419	13.9	44	2
Fergerson	19	374	19.6	45	2
Howard	17	177	10.4	24	1
Sims	12	176	14.6	82	3
Sawyer	10	105	10.5	27	0
McCullum	9	198	22.0	65	1

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Beamon	6	36	6.0	16	0
McMillan	4	157	39.2	57	0
Brown	4	68	17.0	29	1
Preece	4	55	13.7	29	0
Geddes	3	9	3.0	6	0
Dufek	2	26	13.0	27	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Weaver	58	2293	39.5	59	1
Engles	4	137	34.3	41	0

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Packer	20	0	131	6.5	31	0
Fergerson	8	3	54	6.7	14	0
Largent	3	1	32	10.6	12	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Hunter	36	820	22.7	41	0
Packer	13	280	21.5	44	0
Fergerson	11	240	21.8	39	0

Seahawks' Notes

Only two players have started all 28 regular season games for the Seahawks—cornerbacks Eddie McMillan and Dave Brown. Brown started 14 as a free safety in 1976 and 14 last year at right cornerback, while McMillan has started all 28 games at left cornerback. . .

Seven players have played in all 28 games—McMillan, Brown, linebacker Sammy Green, defensive end Richard Harris, center Art Kuehn, wide receiver Steve Largent and running back Don Testerman. . .

Strong safety Autry Beamon tied for sixth in AFC interceptions with six. Seattle's 25 interceptions tied the team for fifth in the conference behind Pittsburgh's league leading 31. . .

Seattle's 56 points and 559 yards in the Seahawks' 56-17 victory over Buffalo in the Kingdome last year were season highs in the NFL. . .

Defensive tackle Joe Klecko goes after Miami quarterback Griese.

Trying to Get Out of that 3-11 Rut

3-11, 3-11, 3-11. On paper it all appears the same. It doesn't look like progress, but the Jets have compiled their third straight 3-11 season with definite improvement. A new stability was brought by head coach Walt Michaels who has made the Jets competitive again.

"Realistically, you don't cover up a 3-11 record; but in their hearts, the players feel they're better than that, and I agree with them," said Michaels. "I think we came a lot farther than our record indicates. We took a big step forward. The biggest thing was the hitting. We had a lot of solid hard hitting. We didn't have any quitters out there. So many of the crazy things that happened over the last few years didn't happen in 1977. I'm happy they didn't, and that's a tribute to our owners and club president Jim Kensil. And that means that we're on the right track."

The latter reference was to the last two seasons when the Jets had to search for new head coaches and new staffs (one head coach was fired and another resigned) and several players made it known that they weren't happy with the Jets and wanted to leave. Now when you talk to a Jets' player, he says he can't wait for the new season to start. The return to competitiveness was marked in a 30-27 victory over New England; a one-point loss to the defending Super Bowl champion Raiders, 28-27; by a 23-20 loss to AFL Central winner Pittsburgh and two four-point losses to Miami, 21-17 and 14-10.

And the current Jets have a strong emphasis on youth (youngest team in the AFC—24.5 years of age and 2.9 years experience—and second youngest in the NFL to Tampa Bay). "Our improvement this year should just come from plain experience," says Michaels. "We will have a more mature player. The hustle and energy were there last year. Now we need to channel those things in the right direction and make them more meaningful. We are starting to develop players at key positions as they come

1978 JETS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 7—Atlanta Falcons at Giants Stadium, N.J. (N)
Aug. 12—New York Giants at Giants Stadium, N.J. (N)
Aug. 19—San Diego Chargers at San Diego (N)
Aug. 25—Philadelphia Eagles at Philadelphia (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 MIAMI (10-14)
S. 10 Buffalo (24-19)
S. 17 SEATTLE (0-17)
S. 24 Washington
O. 1 PITTSBURGH (20-23)
O. 8 BUFFALO (10-14)
O. 15 Baltimore (12-33)
O. 22 ST. LOUIS
1977 Record: 3-11

O. 29 New England (13-24)
N. 5 Denver
N. 12 Philadelphia (0-27)
N. 19 NEW ENGLAND (30-27)
N. 26 Miami (17-21)
D. 3 BALTIMORE (12-20)
D. 10 Cleveland
D. 17 DALLAS

NEW YORK JETS 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

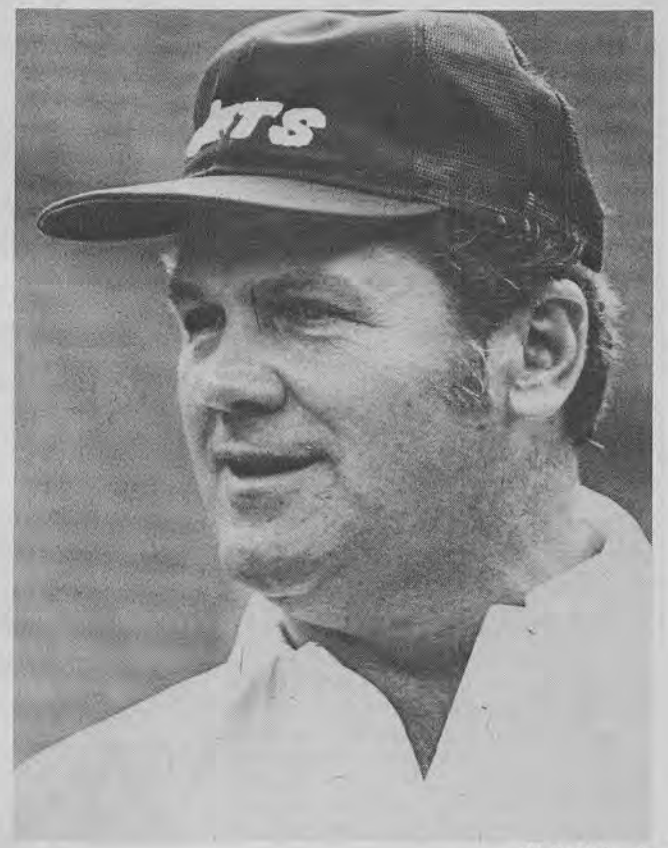
1. WARD, Chris	T	Ohio State
2. MERRILL, Mark	LB	Minnesota
3. SHULER, Mickey	TE	Penn State
4. DONNELL, Dodie	RB	Nebraska
5. SIDLER, Randy	LB	Penn State
6. JACKSON, Bobby	DB	Florida State
6. ROBINSON, George	DT	Dartmouth
7. ARMSTRONG, Levi	DB	UCLA
7. EARLEY, James	RB	Michigan State
8. GAFFNEY, Derrick	WR	Florida
8. MOCK, Mike	P-LB	Texas Tech
8. EPPES, Roy	DB	Clemson
9. GRANT, Reggie	DB	Oregon
9. HUTTON, Neil	DB	Penn State
10. RICHARDSON, Louie	DE	Florida State
11. RYAN, Pat	QB	Tennessee
12. WILLIAMS, Alan	P	Florida

into their second and third years."

Last year the Jets started 13 players who were either first or second-year men and Michaels expects still another large infusion of new blood from the '78 draft. "We are dedicated to building through the draft. Many good teams used the draft."

Some cause for the optimism about a return to the top is found in the play of quarterback Richard Todd who, before injury, had helped place the Jets first in AFC passing offense. "I think Richard silenced his critics," says Michaels bluntly. "It's unfortunate that his injury happened when it did. He tried to come back but you could tell he was rusty. Now he's received a clean bill of health and should take up where he left off. He has the arm, no doubt about that. He can only keep improving. He's beginning to understand the pro passing game and reading defensive coverages."

To go with Todd's arm, the Jets have assembled one of the league's strongest corps of deep threats in veteran WR Richard Caster, TE Jerome Barkum and WR Wesley



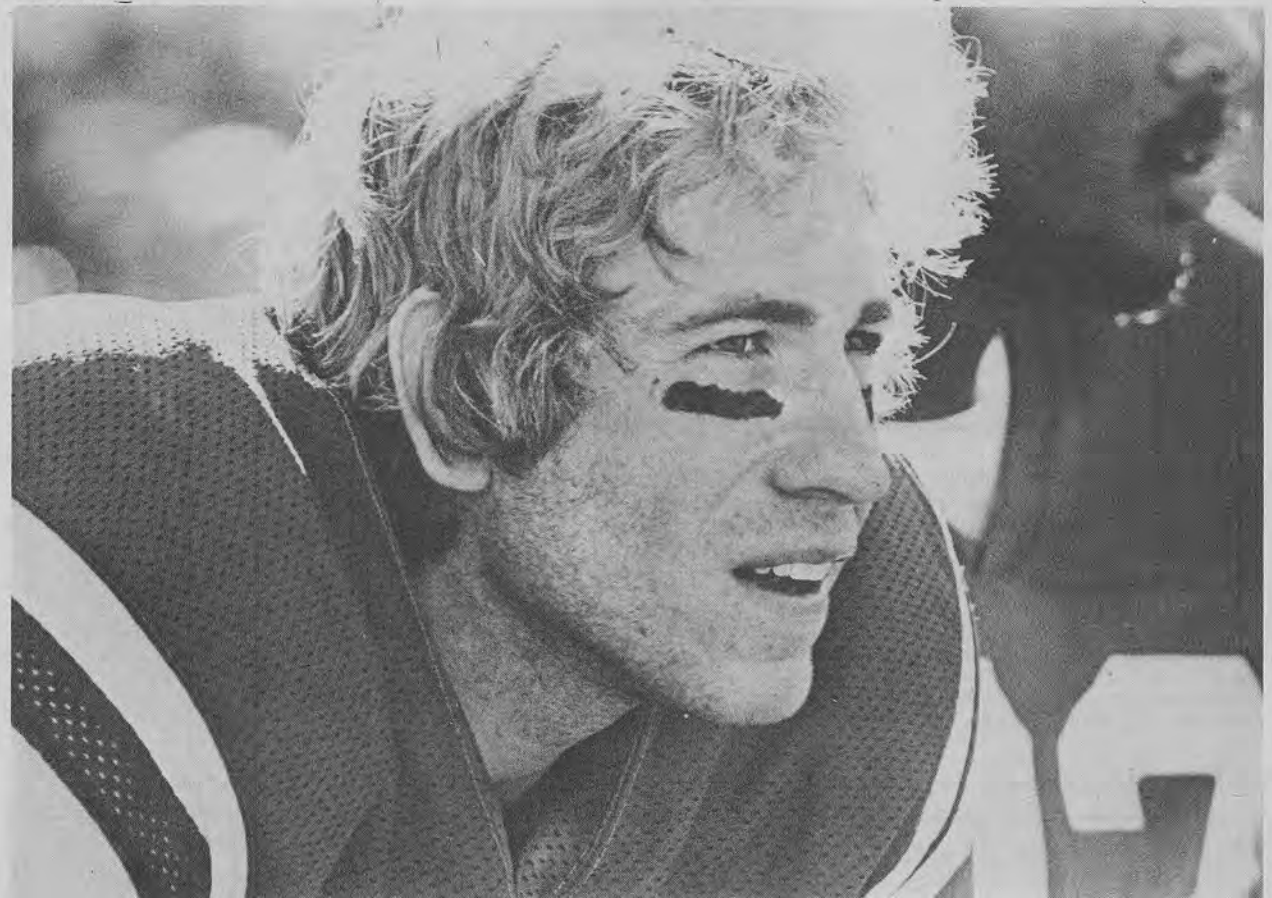
Walt Michaels
Head Coach

Walker. Walker made everyone's NFL all-rookie team and led all NFL receivers in yards gained per reception with a gaudy 21.1 average.

The running back situation is adequate but needs either a big powerful fullback or speedy halfback type. In Clark Gaines, the Jets have a winner (only player in the club's history to lead team in rushing and receiving twice). But

(Continued on page 100)

Richard Todd
Quarterback



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■ **MURRAY CHASS** (New York Times) — Covered N.Y. Giants in 1975. Has authored several books on pro football, and contributes to many top pro football publications.

■ **FRANK LUKSA** (Dallas Times Herald) — Frank has reported on the Dallas Cowboys since the beginning. A three-time nominee for Texas Sports Writer of the Year.

■ **GERRY ESKENAZI** (New York Times) — A renowned hockey writer, Gerry covered N.Y. Jets for the Times last year.

■ **JOE O'DAY** (N.Y. Daily News) — Columnist for the News as well as football correspondent of COLLEGE AND PRO FOOTBALL NEWSWEEKLY.

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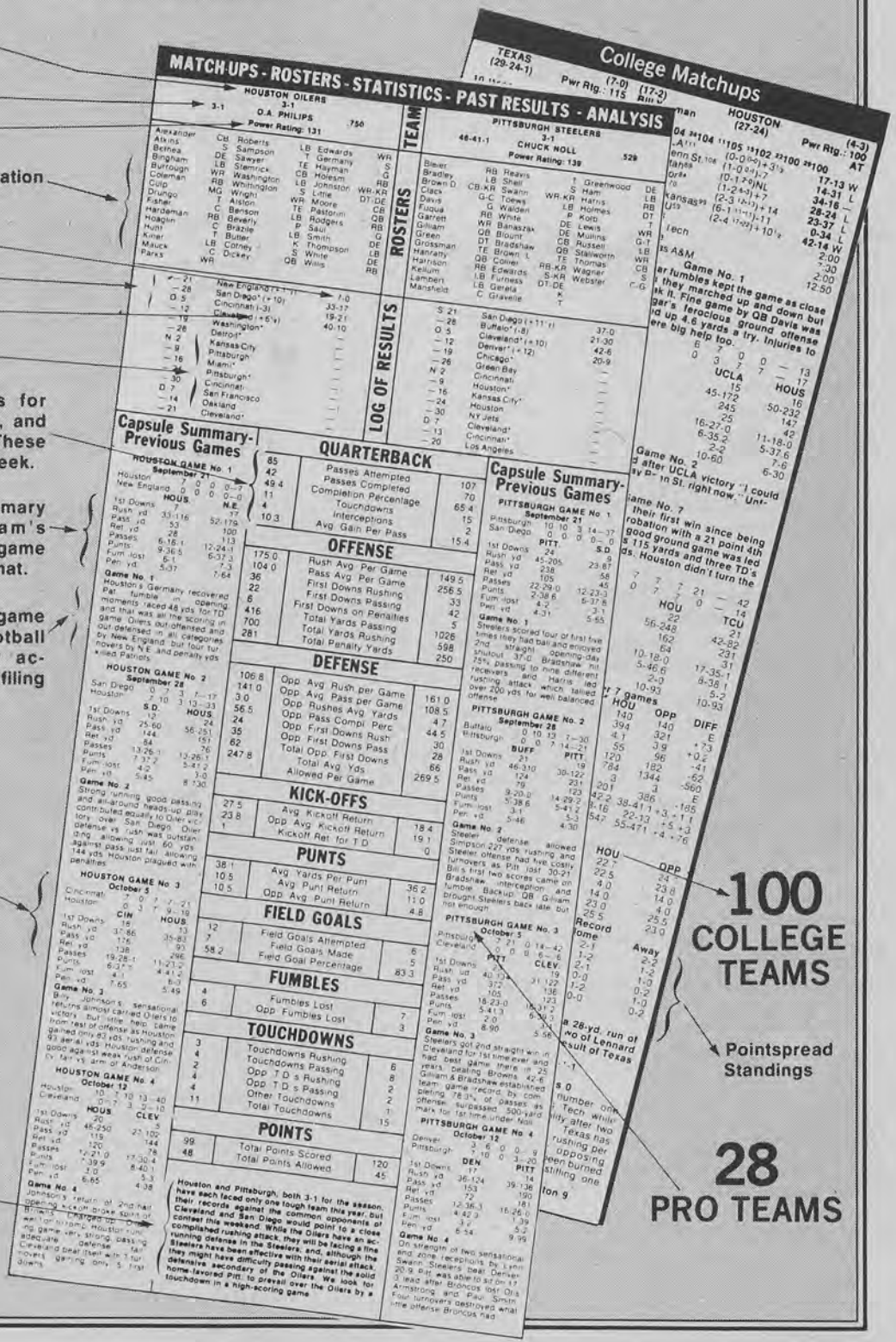


Scott Dierking
Running Back

(Continued from page 97)

at 201 pounds he is an "in-between" size back who could move to either fullback or halfback, depending on what the Jets come up with in the draft or develop among such young players as Scott Dierking, Kevin Long, Bruce Harper and Charlie White. All four of the latter were rookies who split playing time at halfback last year with Dierking starting the final five games, winding up a club second in rushing with 315 yards and achieving the season game rushing high of 107 yards against Pittsburgh.

The offensive line had its ups and downs. Through mid-season it protected Todd in good fashion, but faltered in the later stages. Veteran Randy Rasmussen, the only player still linked to Super Bowl success, is the group's most consistent and will hold forth at left guard. Second-year T Marvin Powell and G Dan Alexander are key hopes for the future. Garry Puetz is the incumbent LT. Joe Fields is at center and Darrell Austin can fit in at guard, center or tackle.

Michaels labels his young defensive unit as a source of strength, but stamps improvement at cornerback a necessity. Pacing the play of the front four was rookie tackle Joe Klecko, a Walt Michaels' type of player. He started the final six games and gave what Michaels terms, "the big play." He led the team with eight sacks, at least one in each of his starts.

Two second-year men, LE Lawrence Pillers and RT Abdul Salaam, turned in good performances on the line with Klecko. Carl Barzilauskas, the big tackle, was having a good year until he injured his knee, opening the way for Klecko to become a starter. Until the eighth game, Klecko had been splitting playing time with Salaam, mainly used in passing situations. In February, the Jets traded veteran DE Richard Neal to New Orleans for a draft choice and now must come up with a replacement for him. Competing for the job are John Hennessy, termed the biggest surprise of last year's draft by Michaels; and Greg Murphy, a free agent from Penn State who went great in preseason only to wind up on the injured reserve list.

The linebacking corps added another year of experience to its fine rookie years and now Michaels feels they can fill even more important roles. Greg Buttle, although not as visibly impressive as he was ASA rookie, continues to improve. A strong combination is on hand at right linebacker with Larry Keller and Bob Martin. Martin, who had a good rookie year, suffered a shoulder injury, missed the final nine games, but is ready again. Keller filled in for Martin out and the two will contest for the starting job. In between the Buttle and Martin-Keller tandem is veteran MLB John Ebersole.

Safety spots could be one of the club's strongest positions if Burgess Owens continues to improve and Shafer Suggs can stay healthy. Owens appears to have found a happy home at free safety and enjoyed probably his finest season since joining the Jets as a No. 1 draft choice in 1973.

1977 JETS STATISTICS

	Jets	Opps.
Total Points Scored	191	300
Total First Downs	195	283
Third Down Efficiency	34.1	47.1
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1618-83	2245-137
Passes Att-Completed	360-170	377-215
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2002-96	2403-131
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	35-284	26-184
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	11-13.9	26-16.2
Punts-Average Yards	76-37.6	73-38.2
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	38-12.6	46-9.7
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	61-22.5	45-21.0
Fumbles-Ball Lost	24-14	37-17
Penalties-Yards	62-508	89-788

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Leahy	0	18-21	15-25	53
Barkum	6	0	0	36
Gaines	4	0	0	24
Walker	3	0	0	18
Todd	2	0	0	12
White	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Gaines	158	595	3.8	19	3
Dierking	79	315	4.0	21	0
Harper	44	198	4.5	18	0
Long	56	170	3.0	12	0
White	50	151	3.0	27	1
Todd	24	46	1.9	13	2

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Todd	265	133	1863	50.2	17	87	11
Domres	40	17	113	42.5	1	18	1
Robinson	54	20	310	37.0	8	58	2

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Gaines	55	469	8.5	31	1
Walker	35	740	21.1	87	3
Barkum	26	450	17.3	40	6
Harper	21	209	10.0	55	1
Caster	10	205	20.5	58	1
Knight	7	129	18.4	49	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Owens	3	18	6.0	12	0
Buttle	2	54	27.0	44	1

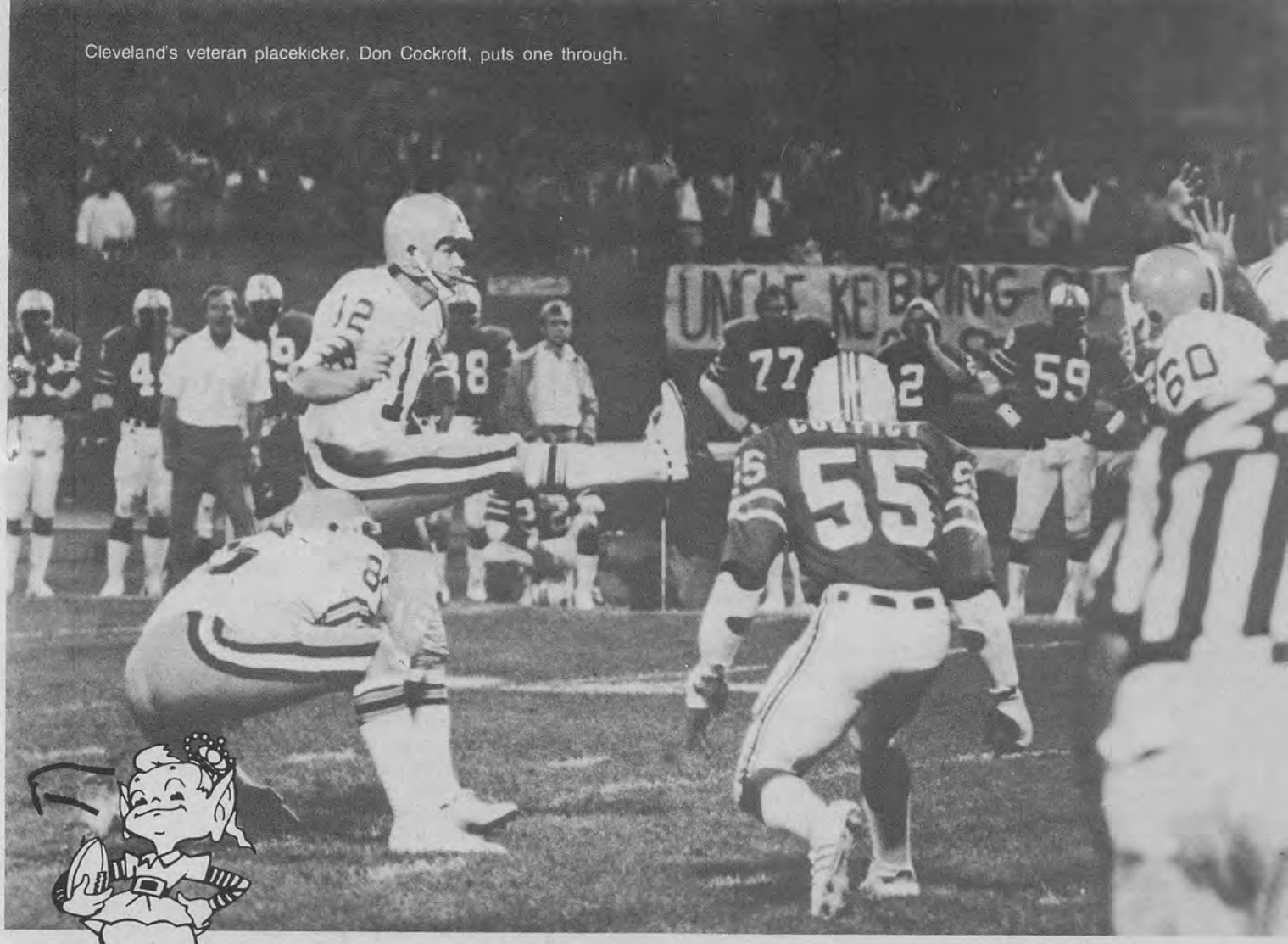
Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Ramsey	62	2298	37.1	61	0
Carrell	14	557	39.8	56	0

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Harper	34	5	425	12.5	49	0
Schroy	3	0	38	12.7	17	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Harper	42	1035	24.6	60	0
Hardee	7	148	21.1	36	0
Dierking	6	91	15.2	20	0
Raba	4	64	16.0	20	0

Suggs, the hardhitting strong safety, has been injury-plagued in recent years. When he's healthy, he displays the great ability that made him a No. 2 draft pick in 1976. The Jets finished 28th in League pass defense and must improve at cornerback. The incumbents are Ed Taylor, a three-year starter, and second-year Billy Hardee. Mo Tyler backed up both spots and started four games.

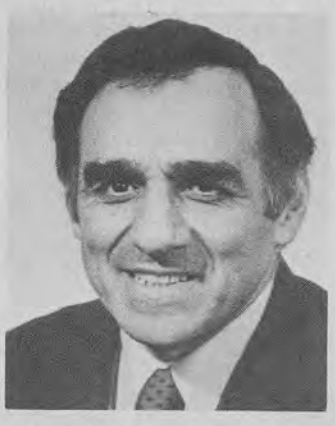
The special teams made strong improvement and finished high in all categories except punt coverage. Rookie sensation Bruce Harper finished third in the NFL in all-purpose yardage behind only Walter Payton and Terry Metcalf. Pat Leahy had a mid-season placekicking slump but hit seven of his last eight field goals. His strong kickoffs enabled the Jets finish sixth in AFC kickoff coverage. Chuck Ramsey had an up-and-down season, averaging 37.1 yards per punt. ●



Cleveland's veteran placekicker, Don Cockroft, puts one through.

Rutigliano Takes Over Operation Turnaround

CLEVELAND BROWNS



Sam Rutigliano
Head Coach

Sam Rutigliano comes up from New Orleans, hopefully to put the Browns on the kind of a track that will take them into, at the very minimum, the playoffs. While with the Saints, his area was wide receiver coach but now he must turn his attention to the entire spectrum of Cleveland's NFL coaching operation. In taking over from Forrest Gregg, Rutigliano will attempt to better the 6-8 mark the Browns put together in '77.

In his initial appraisal of the Browns just as they are, the new head coach made these observations:

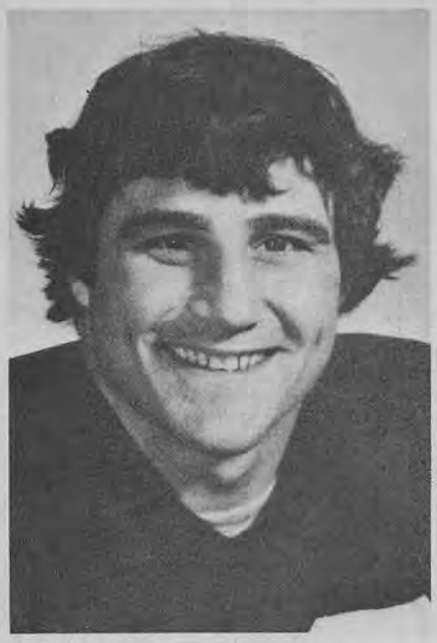
CLEVELAND'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. MATTHEWS, Clay	LB	Southern California
1. NEWSOME, Ozzie	WR	Alabama
2. EVANS, Johnny	P-QB	North Carolina State
3. COLLINS, Larry	RB	Texas A&I
3. MILLER, Mark	QB	Bowling Green
4. PULLARA, Pete	G	Tenn.-Chattanooga
5. WRIGHT, Keith	WR	Memphis State
6. PITTS, Al	C	Michigan State
8. TURNBOW, Jesse	DT	Tennessee
9. KRAMER, Jon	G	Baylor
10. WATSON, Brent	T	Tennessee
11. GILLARD, Larry	DT	Mississippi State
12. BIEDERMANN, Leo	T	California

DEFENSE

Secondary—"We will start out with Clarence Scott and Oliver Davis (last year's outstanding rookie) at the corners with Thom Darden and Tony Peters at safety. This is a young and talented secondary. Darden has all of the qualities to be a top free safety and Scott can continue to be productive. And Ron Bolton has the opportunity to compete for either cornerback spot.

"In Peters and Davis, we have the prototype defensive back who can play either corner or safety. Sure, I wouldn't



Dick Ambrose
Linebacker

Ron Bolton
Cornerback

Jerry Sherk
Defensive Tackle

mind drafting another guy like Oliver Davis. That was a great pick. This is a very competitive group . . . without a lot of holes to fill."

Linebackers—"Obviously the key here is Robert Jackson. If he is able to physically come back, we have the opportunity to insert him at outside linebacker. Certainly, with the productivity of Dick Ambrose at middle linebacker it would not make much sense to take an outstanding athlete like Robert Jackson and put him behind a guy where he doesn't have a chance to play. He's played outside before and he has the qualities to play there.

"So right now we have Ambrose and Bob Babich inside with Charlie Hall and Gerald Irons outside with the insertion of Jackson at outside linebacker. To go to a 3-4 defense all of the time, you've got to have six or seven real good linebackers, and although we have a good group, there just isn't enough depth."

Line—"This is a very interesting group. Of course, there's the uncertainty of Jerry Sherk because of his knee problems. Mack Mitchell, Joe Jones and Mike St. Clair in themselves make defensive end one of the most interesting groups we have because they have size, speed—all the redeemable qualities you're looking for in defensive end play. They're outstanding athletes, but they have not consistently done the job.

Mike St. Clair
Defensive End

"We can turn those three guys around and they can become quality players in this league and that makes it interesting. We don't have any proof that defensive end was a totally productive group, yet it can be. We also hope they can obtain more upper body strength. Then inside (at tackle) we've got Sherk, who's a helluva player and Earl Edwards, a veteran who can be a settling factor and a young man in Mickey Sims, who did a good job when he was thrown in there in an emergency last year."

Over-all defense—"We don't have any critical needs. We have some areas where we need some depth. This defense is very competitive and solid. The brilliance of Jones, St. Clair and Mitchell and the return of Jackson and Sherk are REAL keys. But from what I've seen on film, there's reason to be optimistic about our defense. I don't see us going into the draft saying we need a corner, a linebacker. We have quality at each position."

OFFENSE

Running backs—"In Greg Pruitt we might have the guy who can be able to do more things better then any back in the NFL. What we would like to do with Greg is expand the things he does, much like Chuck Foreman (of Minnesota) where he catches 60-70 passes . . . things like screens, dumps, put him in motion, line him up as wide

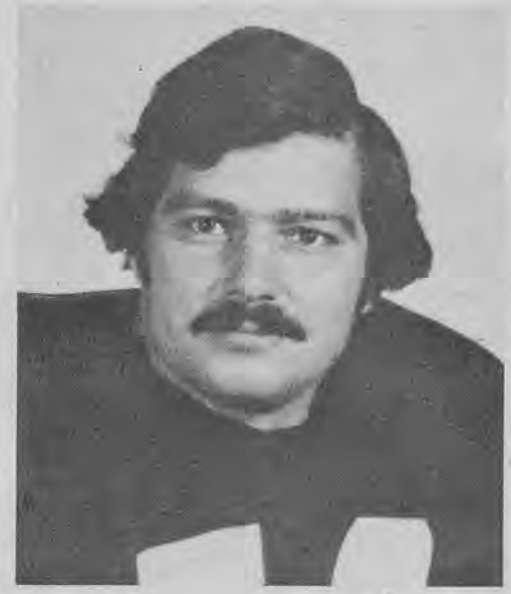
1978 BROWNS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 7—New York Giants at Cleveland (N)
Aug. 12—Buffalo Bills at Buffalo (N)
Aug. 21—Detroit Lions at Cleveland (N)
Aug. 27—New England Patriots at Foxboro, Mass. (TV)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 SAN FRANCISCO	**O. 29 BUFFALO (27-16)**
S. 10 CINCINNATI (7-10)	**N. 5 Houston (24-23)**
S. 17 Atlanta	**N. 12 DENVER**
S. 24 Pittsburgh (31-35)	**N. 19 Baltimore**
O. 1 HOUSTON (15-19)	**N. 26 LOS ANGELES (0-9)**
O. 8 New Orleans	**D. 3 Seattle (19-20)**
O. 15 PITTSBURGH (14-28)	**D. 10 NY JETS**
O. 22 Kansas City (44-7)	**D. 17 Cincinnati (13-3)**
1977 Record: 6-8	



Tom DeLeone
Center

receiver, get him down field. Get him outside a thousand different ways and he can really be dangerous. Cleo Miller is a very productive back. And we've got to surface Mike Pruitt's talents to get him involved and we are going to play him. From what we've seen of Mike Pruitt on film, we're sure he can help us. Larry Poole, when he played, was a productive back.

"It would be interesting to draft a back who's a burner that could be our return man. The one void on this team that stands out is not having the returner who can consistently be a threat. We plan on playing both fullbacks (Mike Pruitt and Miller). Plus, we don't want to get Greg beat up and Larry Poole could be a more important factor. And if it's a key time in a game there would be, without question, the consideration to put Greg in to return a kick. That just makes good sense. And we're probably only talking about a half-dozen times during the season where this would come up, so you aren't risking injury that much."

Receivers—"Dave Logan is a very fine prospect who will get the opportunity to play. We don't plan on moving him to tight end because he's been successful at wide receiver and that's where he wants to play. Reggie Rucker is very productive and has three or four more productive years ahead. What we would like is to draft a wide receiver to fill the need of a kick returner. Other guys like Ricky Feacher haven't played enough to really evaluate. At tight end, we've got to get Oscar Roan stronger and we have to have improved production in that area in terms of consistent blocking. We can't get Greg Pruitt outside if we don't have a tight end who can block. This is something that has to improve for us to be effective. That's a project for us. Plus, Oscar has to stay free of injuries and maybe he's been hurt so much because he didn't have the strength to block big guys. Oscar's not the big prototype tight end. This means there's a strong indication that we will be looking for a tight end in the draft. Gary Parris is a good tight end who always will be excellent in a backup position."

Line—"Collectively, it is one of the most productive offensive lines I've been exposed to in the NFL. The defensive line coach at Cincinnati told me they stopped using stunts because this offensive line blocked them so well. The Pittsburgh defensive line coach said the same thing. Chuck Fairbanks (New England head coach) told me the Browns line blocked them better than any team they played all year. That's a helluva compliment. And when you look at them on film, they do a helluva job.

"But it would be nice to have another young tackle to develop and if a guy like Chris Ward (Ohio State) or Gordon King (Stanford) were available in the draft we'd grab him as a front-line player. Even if Barry Darrow doesn't come back from knee surgery we should get another tackle." (The other tackle is Doug Dicken with Tom DeLeone at center and Henry Shephard and Bob Jackson at guards).

Quarterbacks—"Brian Sipe obviously will be our No. 1 quarterback. If he has the right machinery, I think he's got an excellent opportunity to be a productive quarterback in this league . . . much like Bob Griese. He's not a prototype thrower like a Bert Jones, so you have to gear your offense to what he does best." ●

1977 BROWNS STATISTICS

	Browns	Opps.
Total Points Scored	269	267
Total First Downs	271	261
Third Down Efficiency	40.4	39.8
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	2200-119	2098-113
Passes Att-Completed	377-208	340-184
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2175-119	2017-116
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	24-199	31-281
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	23-18.7	31-11.3
Punts-Average Yards	62-39.0	70-37.6
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	38-8.5	31-18.0
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	53-20.3	50-19.7
Fumbles-Ball Lost	34-22	32-16
Penalties-Yards	125-1046	117-967

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Cockroft	0	30-31	17-23	81
Miller	5	0	0	30
Parris	5	0	0	30
Poole	4	0	0	24
Pruitt, G.	4	0	0	24
Rucker	2	0	0	12
Roan	2	0	0	12
Warfield	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Pruitt, G.	236	1086	4.6	78	3
Miller	163	756	4.6	38	4
Pruitt, M.	47	205	4.4	21	1
Poole	38	118	3.1	12	1
Sipe	10	14	1.4	9	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Sipe	195	112	1233	57.4	14	52	9
Mays	121	67	797	55.3	10	60	6
Luck	50	25	316	50.0	7	33	1

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Miller	41	291	7.1	21	1
Pruitt, G.	37	471	12.7	60	1
Rucker	36	565	15.7	40	2
Parris	21	213	10.1	26	5
Logan	19	284	14.9	42	1
Warfield	18	251	13.9	52	2
Poole	17	137	8.1	21	3
Roan	13	136	10.5	27	2

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Darden	6	107	17.8	49	1
Irons	3	99	33.0	53	1
Scott	3	72	24.0	49	1
Davis	3	71	23.7	32	0
Bolton	3	50	17.3	43	0
Peters	2	29	14.5	25	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Coleman	61	2389	39.2	58	0

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Woolsey	32	3	290	9.1	44	0
Feacher	2	0	15	7.5	15	0
Payton	3	0	17	5.7	16	0

Kickoff Rets	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TDs
Williams	8	199	24.9	32	0
Pruitt, M.	6	131	21.8	31	0
Feacher	11	219	19.9	26	0
Duncan	15	298	19.9	36	0

More Points Needed On the Arrowhead Scoreboard

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

1978 CHIEFS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Green Bay Packers at Green Bay (N)
Aug. 12—Minnesota Vikings at Kansas City (N)
Aug. 20—New England Patriots at Foxboro, Mass.
Aug. 26—St. Louis Cardinals at Kansas City (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 Cincinnati (7-27)	O. 29 Pittsburgh
S. 10 HOUSTON (20-34)	N. 5 OAKLAND (28-37)
S. 17 NY Giants	N. 12 San Diego (21-16)
S. 24 DENVER (7-14)	N. 19 SEATTLE (31-34)
O. 1 Buffalo	N. 26 SAN DIEGO (7-23)
O. 8 TAMPA BAY	D. 3 BUFFALO
O. 15 Oakland (20-21)	D. 10 Denver (7-23)
O. 22 CLEVELAND (7-44)	D. 17 Seattle
1977 Record: 2-12	

Mike Livingston
Quarterback

Marv Levy is the new coach of the Kansas City Chiefs, replacing Tom Bettis, who followed Tom Wiggin in 1977 as owner Lamar Hunt showed his unhappiness with a combined 2-12 record.

Last year was a champagne season for Levy as coach of the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League. His team captured the Grey Cup, Canada's Super Bowl—and gave Levy, a choice of NFL jobs in three locales. He chose Kansas City, which may or may not have been correct.

Wiggin had started his second campaign by losing his first five games. Then the Chiefs beat San Diego 21-16. However, the following week Cleveland massacred the Kansas City eleven 44-7, and Hunt fired Wiggin.

Bettis was made the interim coach. He was a winner in his first game over Green Bay, 20-10, but then the hapless and almost helpless Chiefs lost the remainder of their schedule.

Coaching, of course, isn't the real reason Kansas City no longer is up to date in the NFL. The porous Kansas City defense allowed a whopping 349 points (24.9 per game last year). Only Seattle, the second year expansion club, gave up more, and the Seahawks put points on the board much faster than do the Chiefs, who had no counter for their weak defense.

With Seattle getting better, and the West already loaded with Denver, Oakland and San Diego, the Chiefs will be hard put to stay out of the cellar again.

Levy faces an almost insurmountable problem viewed from a one year stance. He needs time, perhaps three to four years—and luck in the form of good drafts and the development of the players selected in the future. Gone are the Lenny Dawsons, Jim Lynchs and Willie Laniers from the 1970 Super Bowl club. In their place are no names, who can't do the job.

Levy had a Canadian reputation as a man who leaned towards the offense—and this may not work in the defensive oriented NFL.

He must find a decent replacement for his quarterback, Mike Livingston, the 11 year veteran who has had only good season in his entire NFL tenure.

Livingston was 143 for 282 passing last year for 1,823 yards and nine touchdowns. His completion average of 50.7 was pretty average—and not good enough for a starter. He may get some competition from rookie Mike Vitali, who didn't play a game last year, and WFL vet Tony Adams who might be the ultimate answer.

Ed Podolak is a prehistoric reminder of the Chiefs Super Bowl team, but the fact he is still the team's number one runner, is most situations, shows how bad the situation has become. Podolak ground out 550 yards, but he is 31, and never was real fast. Mark Bailey, a rookie in 1977, gained 266 yards and Tony Reed, also a first year player, rushed for 505.

KANSAS CITY'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. STILL, Art	DE	Kentucky
2. HICKS, Sylvester	DE	Tennessee State
3. SPANI, Gary	LB	Kansas State
4. JOHNSON, Danny	LB	Tennessee State
4. WOODS, Pete	QB	Missouri
5. MC RAE, Jerrold	WR	Tennessee State
5. CAREY, Dwight	DT	Texas-Arlington
5. WOODS, Robert	KR	Grambling
7. ODOM, Ricky	DB	Southern California
7. KELLAR, Bill	WR	Stanford
8. WHITE, John Henry	RB	Louisiana Tech
9. BROWN, Larry	T	Miami (Fla.)
10. BRYANT, Earl	DE	Jackson State
11. MILO, Ray	DB	New Mexico State
12. BROCK, Willie	C	Colorado

The receiver corps, never strong, even when the Chiefs had Otis Taylor, possess Emmett Edwards, Henry Marshall and Charlie Wade. Probably the best of the group is Larry Brunson, but he played out his option and may not return.

The offensive line has a bit of hope for the future. At center Jack Pudnay is one of the better pivots in the NFL. Both guards have good promise, Charlie Getty and Tom Condon. The tackles, Jim Nicholson and Matt Herkenhoff are not that good—and Levy should try to replace them.

Tight end Walter White, given the right quarterback might blossom into all pro. He can block and catch passes like Billy Joe Dupres.

Placekicker Jan Stenured is being threatened by ex-CFL kicker Zenon Andrusyshyn, who can punt and place kick. Punter Jerrell Wilson, once rated as the tops or next to the best in the entire league was swapped to Houston to make room for the big Zee.

The Kansas City defense is a disaster area. Linebacker Willie Lanier, traded to Baltimore after threatening to retire was a link with the past. So, too, was Dick Lynch, his partner. With the passing of these premier linebackers from the glory era of the Chiefs, Kansas City fans can no

Charlie Getty
Guard

Walter White
Tight End

Henry Marshall
Wide Receiver

longer kid themselves about the abilities of the men wearing the Chiefs uniform.

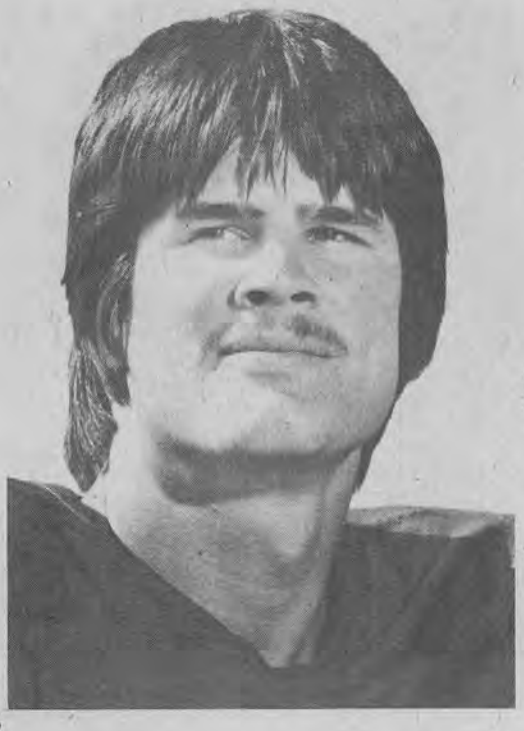
Levy will attempt to find three regulars from amongst Cliff Frazier, Wilbur Young, Keith Simons, Jeff Lloyd, Willie Lee, John Lohmayer and Whitney Paul.

In spite of their record, the secondary really isn't that bad. Under terrific pressure all year because of the collapse of the pass rush, the deep backs did their best. The cornermen are the veteran star Emmitt Thomas, a real old pro and Gary Green, the number one draft who turned out to be pure gold. At the safeties, Tim Gray and the aggressive Gary Barbaro give hope for the future.

Whether Levy can step in the NFL and work the wonders that he wrought in the wide open CFL is also another matter. It may take him almost all of 1977 just to get the feel of things in the United States pro league. The CFL is much more wide open, and its players are somewhat smaller, especially the linemen, than the NFL types Levy will attempt to coach.

The problem with the Kansas City franchise was created when Hank Stram, the only coach and general manager Hunt had for over ten years allowed the team to drift downhill with poor drafts.

It has been proven in recent years that the coach is vital,



Gary Barbaro
Safety

1977 CHIEFS STATISTICS

	Chiefs	Opps.
Total Points Scored	225	349
Total First Downs	228	304
Third Down Efficiency	32.6	41.0
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1843-95	2971-169
Passes Att-Completed	374-190	333-175
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2093-110	2022-113
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	48-421	25-22
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	21-16.6	26-15.0
Punts-Average Yards	89-39.4	63-41.0
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	36-6.6	50-14.0
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	63-20.5	44-21.8
Fumbles-Ball Lost	32-31	39-23
Penalties-Yards	82-706	105-930

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Stenerud	0	27-28	8-18	51
Podolak	5	0	0	30
White	5	0	0	30
Marshall	4	0	0	24
Bailey	3	0	0	18
Brockington	2	0	0	12
Reed	2	0	0	12
Gray	2	0	0	12

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Podolak	133	550	4.1	41	5
Reed	126	505	4.0	59	2
Bailey	66	266	4.0	37	2
Brockington	54	161	3.0	12	1
Lane	25	79	3.2	9	1
Livingston	19	78	4.1	13	1
McKnight	11	74	6.7	19	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Livingston	282	143	1823	50.7	15	49	9
Adams	92	47	691	51.1	11	63	2

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
White	48	674	14.0	48	5
Podolak	32	313	9.8	23	0
Marshall	23	445	19.3	49	4
Brunson	20	295	14.8	63	0
Brockington	19	222	11.7	48	1
Bailey	17	206	12.1	47	1
Reed	12	125	10.4	20	0

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Barbaro	8	165	20.6	102	1
Green	3	19	6.3	19	0
Lynch	3	8	2.7	6	0
Collier	2	134	67.0	100	1
Gray	2	16	8.0	11	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Wilson	88	3510	39.9	59	1

Punt Rets	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Green	14	2	115	8.2	18	0
Brunson	20	0	108	5.4	19	0

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
McKnight	12	305	25.4	70	0
Reed	11	239	21.7	39	0
Brunson	11	216	19.6	32	0
Williams	17	319	18.8	48	0

but so is the general manager or personnel man who must assemble the team—and on whose judgement these all important drafts depend. No one man, no matter how talented or hard working, can do both jobs justice. Levy, seemingly, is going to try.

It is to be hoped that Hunt is prepared to give Marv time, perhaps three years to see if his ideas work in football's big time. He will need at least that much time to upgrade the Kansas City personnel so that it can compete in the NFL. ●

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October 15, 1977	Michigan	(-18)	over Wisconsin	Win 56-0
October 23, 1977	New England	(-2)	over Baltimore	Win 17-3
November 5, 1977	Georgia	(+4)	over Florida	Lose 17-22
November 24, 1977	Miami	(+4)	over St. Louis	Win Outright 55-14
December 28, 1977	N.C. State	(+3)	over Iowa State	Win Outright 24-14
January 2, 1978	Arkansas	(+17)	over Oklahoma	Win Outright 35-6

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BUFFALO BILLS

High Challenge On the Niagara Frontier

Joe Ferguson
Quarterback

Buffalo's new head coach, Chuck Knox, erstwhile coach of the LA Rams, is facing a heady challenge up on the Niagara Frontier—perhaps a bigger challenge than he ever faced on California's balmy shore. He has these thoughts as the opening kickoff nears:

"Winning.

"Every day, we have to ask ourselves 'what have we done to make the Buffalo Bills a winner?' That's the reason, the only reason, this team exists.

"We jumped at the opportunity to become the new head coach of the Bills because we *believe* we can structure the kind of a program here that will again make Buffalo a force in the American Football Conference. We want to put together the kind of a total organization that will make the Bills competitive with the best the NFL has to offer, year in and year out.

"We understand there's a big job to do, that the task ahead will not be easy. Neither Chuck Knox nor anyone on the coaching staff is a miracle worker. What we *are* is dedicated to the assignment of assembling a Bills' football team that will put forth total effort every single minute of every single game.

"We're not bringing a system to impose on the Buffalo Bills players. We're going to take the players here and build around their capabilities. I think the current personnel give us an excellent start toward the kind of future we contemplate for this franchise.

"The Bills, for instance, passed for more yards than any other NFL team last fall. Our reputation as a "running coach" notwithstanding, that's the kind of an asset we intend to capitalize on.

"Joe Ferguson is beginning his sixth year as a starting quarterback in this League and has the kind of leadership and the kind of physical skills that will make us a winner. He bore an excessive burden last fall as did wide receiver Bob Chandler. By evening out the the load, we can look for a more productive total offense.

"Chandler is the kind of quality receiver coaches dream about. He will *always* make the big catch and preoccupies the defensive secondary, creating favorable situations for our other receivers.

"One of the things we *know* is the Bills have an exceptional offensive line. All-Pro Joe DeLamielleure and Reggie McKenzie are as good a guard combination as any in the NFL. Based on the film we've reviewed, both center Willie Parker and tackle Joe Devlin gave good accounts of themselves in their first full year as starters. Dave Foley has been a consistent player in this League for a long time.

"The trade of O.J. Simpson to San Francisco creates an

1978 BILLS SCHEDULE

EXHIBITION GAMES

Aug. 5—Detroit Lions at Pontiac Silverdome(N)
Aug. 12—Cleveland Browns at Buffalo (N)
Aug. 19—Denver Broncos at Buffalo (N)
Aug. 26—Minnesota Vikings at Bloomington, Minn. (N)

REGULAR SEASON
(Home games in capital letters
1977 scores in parentheses, opponent's score last)

S. 3 PITTSBURGH	**O. 29 Cleveland (16-27)**
S. 10 NY JETS (19-24)	**N. 5 NEW ENGLAND (7-20)**
S. 17 Miami (14-31)	**N. 12 MIAMI (0-13)**
S. 24 BALTIMORE (13-31)	**N. 19 Tampa Bay**
O. 1 KANSAS CITY	**N. 26 NY GIANTS**
O. 8 NY Jets (14-10)	**D. 3 Kansas City**
O. 15 Houston	**D. 10 New England (24-14)**
O. 22 CINCINNATI	**D. 17 Baltimore (14-27)**
1977 Record: 3-11	

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My roommates in my apartment at Michigan University are wild about the game and are pitching in four ways to buy it.
J.C., Ann Arbor, Michigan

My grandson, who's 10, spends ¾ of his time at his friend's house playing the game. Being a grandmother, it is surprising to me the strong desire this child has for the game.
J.M., Scranton, Penna.

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element of uncertainty at running back. You don't lose an athlete of O.J.'s talent without feeling it but we're optimistic about the prospect of finding a solid replacement. Roland Hooks did a good job after the Juice was sidelined for the year. There were things to like, as well, about the limited play of Mike Collier and Curtis Brown. Jim Braxton, whose rushing totals were off last fall after sitting out a season due to injury, is certainly a key to our ground game.

"Reuben Gant had a big season from his tight end position, catching 41 passes. He is an excellent target with the speed to get deep. While Paul Seymour's receiving stats were down, he remains a devastating blocker.

"One of the hallmarks of good football teams is defense. Without being an expert, it's easy to see this is an area that has hurt the past several seasons. You don't give up an average of better than 340 points per year, as Buffalo did in 1975-76-77, and win in the NFL.

"While our goals are well-defined on defense, how to accomplish them is a more difficult question. It again becomes a matter of fitting the system to the personnel. Are there more quality linemen than linebackers? Whether to use 4-3 or the increasingly popular 3-4? Is this a better zone coverage or man coverage club? Can we exploit stunts and blitzes? Our defensive plans will require careful thought and analysis.

"There are proven people to begin building around. Few players in the League perform with more desire and intensity than Mike Kadish. His line play of the past several seasons has stamped him as a leader of our defense. Ben Williams, Bill Dunstan and Sherman White have skills to recommend them as well.

"Last year's top draft choice, Phil Dokes, played only sparingly as a rookie. We will attempt to cast him in a more prominent role in the defense this fall.

"The injury to veteran John Skorupan was a big blow to the total defense, the linebacking in particular. There is reason to be encouraged with the prospect of Skorupan's return to health and the availability of two young outside men—Shane Nelson and Dan Jilek. Nelson was an exceptional 'find,' leading the team in total tackles and playing with consistency rare for a rookie.

"Free safety Tony Greene and cornerback Mario Clark were among the League leaders in interceptions a year ago. With Doug Jones and Dwight Harrison, they formed a cohesive secondary unit. This is an experienced foursome with the potential to make us a better defensive football team.

"We've got a chance in Buffalo for a new, fresh approach. Together,—coaches, players, administrators—we aspire to facing our challenges squarely, overcoming them and putting the Bills back in pro football's mainstream."

Chuck Knox
Head Coach

Analysis by Positions

WIDE RECEIVER: John Holland, Bob Chandler, Lou Piccone, John Kimbrough, Len Willis. For the second consecutive year, Chandler caught more passes (60) than any wide receiver in the NFL. He now has 176 receptions in the past three years and ranks second only to Elbert Dubenion as Buffalo's all-time leader. Chandler must be included in any conversation about the NFL's quality receivers. After a strong start, Holland missed 11 games when he suffered a broken jaw against Baltimore. Kimbrough was used only in spots but had the best per-catch average (20.7) on the club. Piccone's experience helped when Holland went down.

TIGHT END: Paul Seymour, Reuben Gant. Gant had a big year. His 41 catches doubled his previous career total, ranked him 14th in the Conference and were exceeded by only two other tight ends (KC's Walter White, Oakland's Dave Casper). Seymour's receiving statistics were not significant, principally because Gant was used in most passing situations. Seymour's bountiful blocking skills are a large asset.

OFFENSIVE LINE: Joe DeLamielleure, Reggie McKenzie, Dave Foley, Ken Jones, Willie Parker, Joe Devlin, Bill Adams, Connie Zelencik. DeLamielleure went to the Pro Bowl for the third year in a row and was again a consensus All-Pro choice. Joe D has started every game (60 straight) since he joined the Bills as a rookie. DeLamielleure and McKenzie continue to be one of the best guard combinations in the League. Both are exceptional at pulling to lead the sweep. Devlin and Parker, in their first year as starters, performed creditably. Dave Foley missed several starts with injuries but was his consistent self, Jones, new to offense, filled in as both a starter and reserve.

QUARTERBACK: Joe Ferguson, Ken Johnson, Fred Besana. Returning from a back injury, Ferguson played every offensive down. He set three different club passing records and threw for more yards (2,803) than any quarterback in the League. Had his biggest day ever in the finale at Miami with a club record 25 completions and a personal best of 331 yards. Threw for 12 TDs but suffered 24 interceptions, well above his average. Contributed 279 yards to the rushing attack—his top total in five pro seasons. Johnson, a free agent from Colorado, was the

BUFFALO'S 1978 COLLEGE DRAFT

1. MILLER, Terry	RB	Oklahoma State
2. HARDISON, Dee	DE	North Carolina
2. HUTCHINSON, Scott	DE	Florida
3. JOHNSON, Dennis	RB	Mississippi State
3. FULTON, Danny	WR	Nebraska-Omaha
4. SANFORD, Lucius	LB	Georgia Tech
5. SPAETH, Ken	TE	Nebraska
6. SMITH, Eric	T	So. Mississippi
7. CELOTTO, Mario	LB	Southern California
7. POWELL, Steve	RB	N.E. Missouri
10. GRANT, Will	C	Kentucky
11. BLANTON, Jerry	LB	Kentucky
12. CRUMP, Richard	RB	N.E. Oklahoma

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No. 1 Weekly Pro Pick
Won 15-17 weeks
vs.
the official Vegas line

Complete College Record for last year

Won 12-14 overall regular college winning weeks.

Season's overall college record:
Won 57, Lost 11, Tied 2
vs. the official Vegas line.

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Monday night NFL:
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Complete Pro Record for last year

Had a remarkable 17 straight pro winning weeks vs. the official Vegas line without a single losing week.

Between the dates of Oct. 2 and Oct 23, we correctly predicted 18 consecutive winners without a single loser vs. the official Vegas line.

Season's overall pro record:
Won 62, lost 14, tied 2
vs. the official Vegas line.

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Pro exhibition record:
Won 24, lost 6
vs. the official Vegas line.

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Reggie McKenzie
Guard

backup. Besana was inactive for 12 games but is highly regarded.

RUNNING BACK: Roland Hooks, Jim Braxton, Mike Collier, Mike Franckowiak, Curtis Brown, Stan Winfrey. Simpson's departure leaves a wide-open field for a starting berth at running back. When O.J. went down in the seventh game, Hooks stepped forward and pitched in with 497 yards in his seven starts to push the tailback total over 1,000. He had the third best single game rushing performance in the AFC with a 155-yard day against New England. Braxton wound up with disappointing rushing state but had his best season ever as a receiver (43 catches). Brown, a promising rookie, was sidelined by a season-ending knee injury vs. Seattle. His return to health brightens running back picture as does strong 1977 performance from free agent Collier.

DEFENSIVE LINE: Ben Williams, Phil Dokes, Mike Kadish, John Little, Bill Dunstan, Sherman White, Greg Morton. Kadish won teammates' nod as Bills' MVP. Led the linemen in tackles (117) for the third consecutive season. Dunstan was a solid addition from Philadelphia. Williams made some spectacular plays and was an effective pass rusher. Dokes came along to spell White late in the season but needs to be stronger.

LINEBACKERS: John Skorupan, Shane Nelson, Tod Ruud, Merv Krakau, Greg Collins, Dan Jilek, Bo Cornell. Rookie Shane Nelson was the team's top tackler with 168. A free agent, he came from nowhere to win a starting spot outside. Skorupan moved to the middle for the opening game but went down for the season against Denver. Krakau took over at MLB for the balance of the year. Second-year man Dan Jilek was right behind Nelson in total tackles and played with consistency. Cornell is the most experienced of slim reserve group.

DEFENSIVE BACKS: Tony Greene, Mario Clark, Dwight Harrison, Doug Jones, Keith Moody, Steve Freeman, Charles Romes. Greene and Clark both ranked among the NFL leaders in pass interceptions. Greene, chosen to the AFC Pro Bowl team, picked off nine to finish second in the League, Clark was fourth with seven. Clark's return yardage (151) was best on the club. Greene had more stops (102) than any other deep back followed closely by Jones (100), who played an aggressive strong safety. Harrison was again plagued by injuries, casting Moody in an occasional starting role. Freeman is one of the leading lights on special teams.

PUNTING AND PLACE KICKING: Marv Bateman, Carson Long. Bateman's average slipped from 1976's league-leading figure of 427 to 39.9 last fall. He had the longest punt in the League again, however, a 75-yard blast against the Washington Redskins. Two of Bateman's punts were blocked and 14 went out of bounds inside the 20. Long joined the team after the Atlanta game. Waived just prior to the opener, he hit on 7 of 11 field goal attempts—the longest of 45 yards. Missed only one PAT in 14 attempts.

PUNT AND KICKOFF RETURNS: Keith Moody, John Kimbrough, Curtis Brown, Mike Collier. Moody rewrote six records for his return work last fall. His most significant marks were best punt return average for a season (13.1) and the longest punt return in Bills history—91 yards vs. Cleveland. Moody ranked third in the NFL as a punt returner and was 11th among AFC kickoff returners. Kimbrough had the best KO return average (23.1) and was sixth in the AFC. Brown, out seven games with an injury, was an excellent kickoff returner at Missouri. ●

1977 BILLS STATISTICS

	Bills	Opps.
Total Points Scored	160	313
Total First Downs	246	260
Third Down Efficiency	38.1	44.2
Yards Rushing-1st Downs	1861-93	2405-134
Passes Att-Completed	458-221	316-155
Yards Passing-1st Downs	2530-141	2048-98
QB Sacked-Yards Lost	36-273	17-165
Interceptions By-Ret. Avg.	21-15.7	24-13.6
Punts-Average Yards	83-38.9	73-36.2
Punt Returns-Avg. Ret.	32-11.9	42-14.4
Kickoff Returns-Avg. Ret.	60-20.6	41-19.9
Fumbles-Ball Lost	36-20	21-12
Penalties-Yards	87-866	71-638

STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Long	0	13-14	7-11	34
Chandler	4	0	0	24
Kimbrough	3	0	0	18
Braxton	2	0	0	12
Ferguson	2	0	0	12
Gant	2	0	0	12
Piccone	2	0	0	12
O'Donoghue	0	4-5	2-6	10

Rushing	Atts	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Simpson	126	557	4.4	39	0
Hooks	128	497	3.9	66	0
Braxton	113	372	3.3	12	1
Ferguson	41	279	6.8	41	2
Collier	31	116	3.7	15	0
Brown	8	34	4.3	9	0

Passing	Atts	Comp	Yds	Pct	Int	Long	TDs
Ferguson	457	221	2803	48.4	24	42	12

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Chandler	60	745	12.4	31	4
Braxton	43	461	10.7	27	1
Gant	41	646	15.8	39	2
Piccone	17	240	14.1	25	2
Hooks	16	195	12.2	33	0
Simpson	16	138	8.6	18	0
Kimbrough	10	207	20.7	42	2

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Greene	9	144	16.0	47	0
Clark	7	151	21.6	43	0
Jones, D.	2	30	15.0	24	1
Harrison	2	0	—	—	0

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Long	Blkd
Bateman	81	3229	39.9	75	2

Punt Ret	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Moody	15	6	196	13.1	91	1
Kimbrough	16	1	184	11.5	73	1

Kickoff Rets	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TDs
Moody	30	636	21.2	45	0
Kimbrough	15	346	23.1	27	0
Piccone	4	89	22.3	26	0
Brown	3	66	22.0	34	0
Collier	4	55	13.8	19	0

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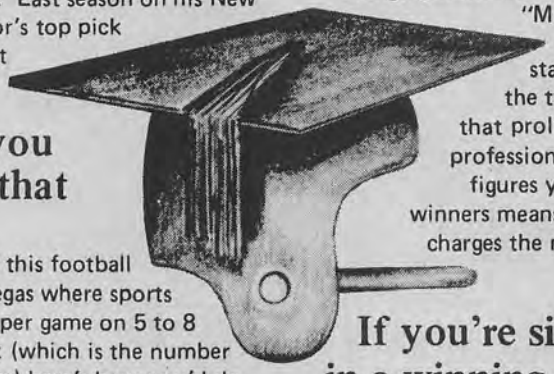

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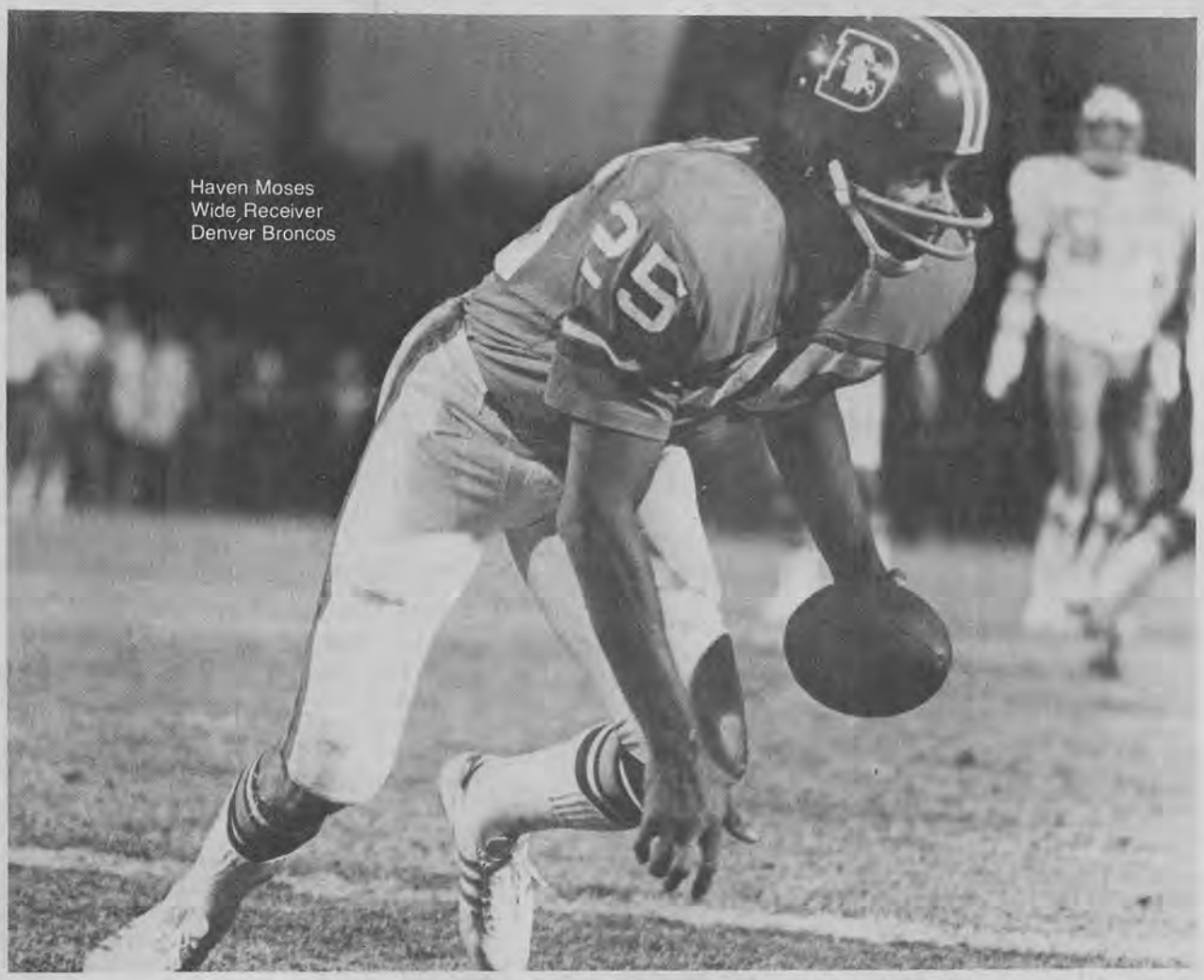

Haven Moses
Wide Receiver
Denver Broncos

ALZADO

(Continued from Page 19)

I asked Lyle about some rumors circulating in Denver that he may be traded. "I'd be less than honest in saying I wouldn't mind playing in New York, Hell that has always been one of my dreams but I'm a Bronco and this is where I'll stay until they tell me I'm leaving, and I'm happy here in Denver."

Despite his high status now as an All-Pro defensive end, Lyle almost didn't make it to college. "Well, I know that with my poor grades and my police record, my chances were few and choices very limited. I thought things might work out for me at New Mexico State but two weeks before I was supposed to go, I got a letter saying that the scholarship was not going to be given," Lyle noted, "and I have the feeling it was more my police record than my grades but I wound up at Yankton College in South Dakota, where things started getting better for me; I got involved with football and weight lifting and did some boxing."

Lyle fought Rod Stander for the Golden Gloves championship in 1969 and lost in a very unpopular decision but Lyle didn't think he got sandbagged at all. "I think the reason they gave it to Stander was for aggressiveness. Imagine that Stander more aggressive than me," Lyle said with a mock smile.

Lyle is heavily involved with charitable organizations in the Denver area. He is actively involved now with no less than 23 charities, does radio commercials, travels extensively and many times at his own expense will do charity banquets and speeches. "I really love kids and I guess that is why I get wrapped up in helping them," Lyle declared, "It is just another way of returning to others all the good that has been given to me."

Alzado's intensity sometimes can rub people the wrong way but as Coach Red Miller puts it, "Alzado makes things happen. His intensity rubs off on the other players, some like him for it, others don't. He is moody, that's true but I know if we just let him sit down and be by himself for a bit, the next day he'll be back jumping all over the place." explained Miller, "and we've had to replace a couple of doors and maybe putty up some holes in the wall but I like people to show some emotion."

Two years ago Lyle had to hide his emotions. He had ripped up his right knee in the first game against Cincinnati, on the very first play from scrimmage. Lyle was torn up inside too and felt like packing his bags. He wouldn't even let people see his leg. But he kept working out everyday after the operation and got back to the point where the knee was better than new.

"I think that the knee injury gave me time to think and now being named an All-Pro has capped off my career. You know back in New York fighting in the streets served no useful purpose. We fought for pride because we had nothing else. We did not know how to channel what was inside us and I now can see where it has all led me," Lyle reflected with his head cocked backward, "I guess other people saw things in me that maybe I didn't see or even know was there." Gerald Phipps, the Broncos' co-owner affirmed Lyle's thinking. "I know that when Lyle first came to us, he was like a little kid. He'd lose his temper, get very upset and not play as well as we knew he could. Then Pete Duranko hurt his knee in Lyle's rookie year and Lyle became a starter right off the bat." Phipps explained, "and then the first game was against Chicago. Well we had our reservations about Lyle but he started and five minutes into the game he was away and winging. He came out of that game with four stitches in his nose and two in his forehead but we knew he was in the lineup to stay."

Lyle's own goals for this year is get back to the Super Bowl and win. "I think the delay and the hoopla hurt us, I really do. Dallas' defense is great but offensively they are no where near Oakland in either intensity power, or technical expertise. I know it is going to be a tough training camp, but we have to do everything better this year because now other teams are after us."

Lyle is involved with making a few movies and still very much involved with charities. He is hoping to coach after his playing days are over. Right now, he says everything is cool and is taking one thing at a time. The only fighting he does today is down on the field and helping fight some dread diseases that affect a number of kids that he has become very involved with as a result of his charitable activities. "I know that in my life I've been in the underdog role so many times that sometimes you can get used to being down. But that has changed for me and I want to help some other people get out of that underdog role and get out on top."

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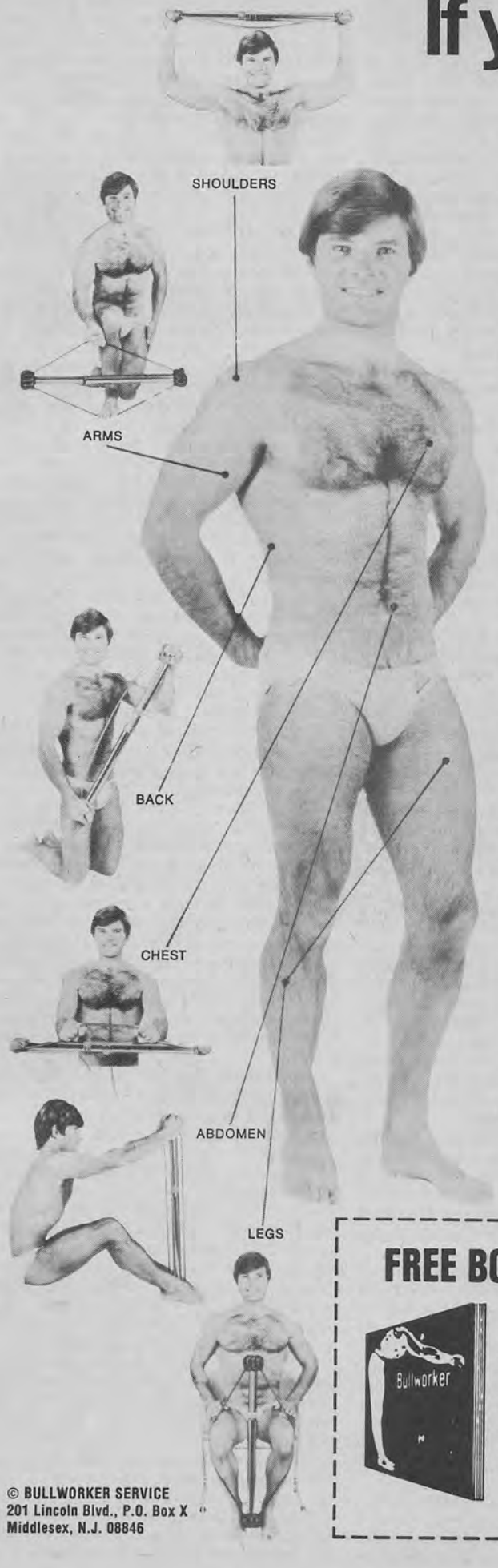

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see page 113

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SUPER BOWL

(Continued from Page 17)

Staubach is once more the fine hand at the helm. He is 36, but in good shape. Roger, the artful dodger, was the top rated passer in the NFC last season—and barring injury there is no reason he can't do it again. He led the league in points with 345 and averaged 343.7 yards per game. If he falters, Danny White is waiting in the wings.

Rushing is in the hands of Dorsett, and fullback Robert Newhouse. T.D. rushed for 1,007 yards and scored 12 TDs, averaging 4.8 yards per carry. He is scary as to his top potential. He set a team mark with 206 yards rushing in one game and is taking dead aim at Walter Payton's hold on the top spot in the NFL rushing ratings.

The offensive line is solid, and with all pro Drew Pearson as the clutch pass receiver, Staubach has no trouble putting the ball in the air. Tight end Billy Jo Dupree is also an asset near the goal line and with his blocking.

Still, the Cowpokes win on their Doomsday Defense, something that Craig Morton and the Denver offensive line found out about in the Super Bowl. In 1977 Dallas ranked first in the NFC against the rush with only 117.9 yards allowed per game, limiting their opposition to a mere 3.6 yards per carry.

The heart of the rush line will be back with Too Tall Jones, Harvey Martin, Jethro Pugh and Randy White up front. Dallas' "flex" defense is now being copied by other teams, but they may learn that it takes size, speed and quickness plus mental agility to play off the line of scrimmage for better angles on opposition blockers. But Landry's men have it down pat.

The linebackers, led by the exciting Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson, are for real—and the secondary with Cliff Harris, Charlie Waters, Benny Barnes and Aaron Kyle discourages the pass.

Anyone in their right mind has to pick Dallas to win the NFC East and once more gain the NFC berth in the Super Bowl.

Most people think that the Washington Redskins have been left for deadskins by the departure of George Allen as their general manager-coach for greener pastures in Los Angeles. Allen's "the future is now" policy of trading draft picks has left Washington practically void of new personnel in recent years, but still they were 9-5 in 1977 with an especially impotent attack.

Jack Pardee, the man who held together the payless Florida Blazers of the WFL and took them to the finals. did his thing in Chicago for the last three years and finally, with the aid of Walter Payton got the Bears into the NFL playoffs for the first time since 1963.

But Pardee and GM Jim Finks didn't see eye to eye so he switched to the Redskins for whom he had starred as a linebacker. In three years with the Bears Pardee moved from 4-10 to 7-7, to 9-5 and the playoffs.

His main task with Washington will be to make a high-priced but low-voltage attack generate more energy. Only in a 26-20 win over St. Louis did Washington put any decent number of points on the board. In half their games, they were held to ten or fewer points.

The defense, creaking with age, ranked only 19th overall, but it was tough when it counted. Washington allowed only 189 points, the lowest since the 1945 Redskins played a ten-game schedule.

The addition of reserve Willie Lanier, a Super Bowl winner in the past at Kansas City, will help the linebacking crew, with Brad Dusek and Harold McClinton leading the charge. The secondary is also solid and very much veteran-oriented with Jake Scott and Ken Houston the leaders.

Washington usually had good field position in 1977 because of the work of Eddie Brown the return man. Their field goal man, Mark Mosely, is a plus; but their attack, ugh.

The offensive line needs an almost complete overhaul before senility creeps in. The passing game, with 39-year-old Billy Kilmer and the much younger, but unproven Joe Theismann at the controls, needs improvement. The running attack should be better with Mike Thomas, who led Washington with 806 yards last year, John Riggins, the ex-Jet now recovered from a knee injury, and a revived Calvin Hill, who should get more playing time.

The improvement may be up to the offensive line, which allowed 52 QB sacks in 1977, second high in the NFL. Jean Fugett is a proven tight end and Frank Grant gets the job done at wide receiver; but Pardee must work hard on the offensive game if Washington is to avoid being called the Deadskins.

Because of Pardee's familiarity with the NFL and his proven coaching record, the Redskins should finish ahead of Philadelphia, St. Louis and the Giants in the NFC East. The acquisition of Bob Breathard, the man responsible for those good Miami drafts, as GM won't hurt either.

Picking the Philadelphia Eagles third in the East takes some courage, but most forget that the Eagles played almost all their opponents tough in 1977 and with luck could have been 7-7, not 5-9. Coach Dick Vermeil now knows his way around the NFL—but he is still suffering from a paucity of draft picks because of the Birds' generosity when they acquired QB Roman Gabriel from the Rams a few years back.

Now, Gabriel has signed with Los Angeles as a backup and the Philly quarterbacking is in the hands of Ron (The Polish Rifle) Jaworski. But the disenchantment showed by the front office's move when they hired the tough-minded John Ralston, the former Denver coach, as an assistant. He is in the wings.

Jaworski led the NFC in throwing interceptions with 21, but improved in the final half of the year with only six in seven games. Even more important, the Eagles closed out 1977 with two straight wins, and at the end. Jaworski's 18 TDs tied him with Roger Staubach.

One of the reasons for the big improvement was wide receiver Harold Carmichael at 6-8, the biggest target in the NFL. Vermeil's gamble in swapping super tight end Charlie Young to L.A. for Jaworski seemingly has paid off—as Young's departure opened the way for Keith Krepfle, who responded with 27 catches and 530 yards.

The Eagles need to improve their offensive line, but it is hoped that Vermeil can improve this as he did his defense when he went to the three-four in 1977. Bill Bergey, perhaps the best middle linebacker in the NFL, leads a superior corps of backers. The secondary is also slick, which makes Philly the pick for third in the NFC East.

Because of the shuffle in the St. Louis organization in the off-season, the Cardinals are picked for fourth. Head coach Don

Coryell, who feuded with his owner Charlie Bidwell for almost all of two years, was dropped, and 62-year-old Bud Wilkinson hired. Bud was All—Everything more than fifteen years ago in the collegiate ranks, but will need time to settle into the complicated facets of NFL life.

Coryell dropped to 7-7 last year, after three years in which his Cardiac Cardinals won 31 games and were 10-4 twice. The front office, hewing to their economic policy, cleaned house, allowing Mr. Franchise, Terry Metcalf, the all-everything back, to sign with the Toronto Argonauts of the CFL and trading All-Pro offensive guard Conrad Dobler to New Orleans. Their loss has to be felt by QB Jim Hart.

Metcalf was working for a mere $50,000 per season with the Cardinals. He will get more than $2.3 million under a lifetime deal in Canada.

Wilkinson needs defensive help. He swapped DE Walt Patulski to the Bears in a house-cleaning move. But that won't help a defense which allowed 287 points last year, more than all but one team in the entire league.

Wilkinson will have the basic elements of Coryell's powerhouse attack-QB Hart, youngish running back Wayne Morris (661 yards and eight TDs) and four-year man Jerry Latin, who may fit into Metcalf's spot. The offensive line is solid, permitting only 15 sacks of their QB in 1977. Ike Harris and Mel Gray are super pass receivers who can go all the way on any given play.

The new coach has indicated that he will drop longtime place-kicking hero Jim Baaken in favor of draftee Steve Little, an indication that he is worried over field position without the mercurial Metcalf to guarantee same on punt and kick returns. No matter, the Cards should slip further back and finish under .500.

Picking the Giants for last place again is easy. They have a tough-minded defense, which could be even better if the anemic conservative attack could put any points on the scoreboard. But it just isn't that way in the Meadowlands.

The Giants remain a religion to their devoted fanatics who drive from all over the Northeast to tailgate parties outside Giants Stadium. Last year the Jints averaged 75,652 fans, the NFL's best sttendance, for the second consecutive season. But for the fifth straight year they finished on the losing side of the won-lost ledger.

However, Giant optimists proclaimed 1977 as a year of improvement. It was coach John McVay's first full season, and his 5-9 record was only two games and a few seconds short of an even split 7-7. They lost in the final twenty seconds to Philadelphia and in overtime in the final nine seconds to the Chicago Bears.

The defense is pretty good with a solid front four of John Mendenhall, Troy Archer, George Martin and Jack Gregory, plus Gary Jeter in reserve. They sacked the QB 38 times in 1977.

Linebacker Brad Van Pelt is All-Pro—and the secondary is better than people think and will benefit from the draft. The Giants surrendered only 3.4 yards per carry in 1977, second only to San Francisco in the NFC. Only one runner, Herb Lusk of Philadelphia, broke the 100-yard barrier against them.

However, McVay is doomed to last place in the NFC East because of their moribund attack, which is led by Joe Pisarcik, the former CFL star. Pisarcik filled the air in

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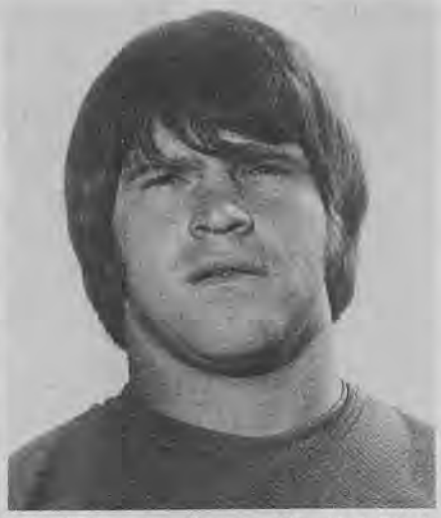

Brian Kelley Linebacker **New York Giants**

the Canadian West, but McVay plays it close to the vest and stays on the ground. A messed-up offensive line may be helped by first draft pick Gordon King—and a hoped for rebound of fullback Larry Csonka. But the Giants' biggest plus may be a light schedule—their main benefit from finishing last a year ago.

The five team NFC Central will remain a Viking domain despite the ravages of time. Bud Grant has a smoothly functioning machine at Minnesota, but his two main rivals, Chicago and Detroit have changed coaches. That means a re-organization period which should be enough to allow the Vikes to slide through to their seventh straight NFC Central title, and ninth in the last ten years.

In 1977, despite a serious injury to their aging all pro quarterback, Fran Tarkenton, they pulled through again despite a late season scare by Chicago. Backup Robert Lee and rookie Tommy Kramer helped the Vikes to 9-5 and an upset of the favored Los Angeles Rams in the first round of the playoffs, 14-7. Why Los Angeles, with superior personnel, consistently loses to Minnesota in the playoffs in a mystery.

Realistically, the Vikings are in decline. They are not sure that Tarkenton can play—and even if he does—how well he can still perform.

Minnesota's entire attack seemingly is based upon all purpose Chuck Foreman, who ran for 1,112 yards—and is also deadly coming out of the backfield for the short flare pass. The Vikings put 231 points on the board, but New Orleans got 232, and Dallas, St. Louis, Chicago and Los Angeles all topped the figure in the NFC.

The offense line is pretty good, with two all pros in right tackle Ron Yary and right guard Ed White, both 31. Wide receiver Ahmad Rashad was the Conference receiving champ with 51 catches for 681 yards. Sammy White caught nine TD passes. Veterans Stu Voight and Bob Tucker solidify tight end.

Up front the Purple People Eaters have a combined 51 years of NFL experience on them—and it is showing. They gave up 227 points last year, but amazingly, two Division teams, with poor records, Green Bay (219) and Tampa Bay (223) gave up less. Carl Eller, Jim Marshall and Alan Page are legendary names, but Marshall is forty years old—and the other two aren't what they used to be, either.

Grant will have to replace retired placekicker Fred Cox, but an easy schedule and the chaos in Detroit and Chicago will pull the Vikings through once more.

It's a shame that general manager Jim Finks and coach Jack Pardee clashed because the Bears were the team of the future in the NFC Central. Not that Neill Armstrong, a 54 year old assistant to Bud Grant at Minnesota, and former head coach at Edmonton in the CFL, might not do the job, but any re-organization usually costs a season.

Armstrong inherits an offense that was number one in the NFL in rushing last year, and he has an adequate passing attack revolving around Bob Avellini.

The Bears scored 255 points, just two more than the opposition in 1977, so Armstrong, a defensive coach, must shore up his defenders. It was clear in their losing effort against Dallas, that the Bears were the least qualified of the eight playoff teams.

Walter Payton makes Chicagoland happy—and there is no reason he can't duplicate his 1,852 yard season of 1977—or perhaps surpass his one game record of 375 yards. The Bears, incidentally, won that game 10-7. Payton drove Chicago to the third best overall offensive rating in the NFL. Only two times in history has a back run for more than sweetness' 1,852 yards.

Some say that the Bears must do better than QB Avellini who was intercepted four times in the playoff game. Still, Armstrong must do something to make the Bears better against the run. They ranked 22nd overall—and the loss of all pro tackle Wally Chambers was severely felt. He has been dealt to Tampa Bay as damaged goods, with a bad knee. A strong secondary helps—the Bucs allowed only 7 scores via the air in 1977—the lowest total in the league, but more defense is needed. Chicago for second place in the NFC Central.

Detroit has been the automatic runnerup for most of the reign of the Vikings, but they slipped back in 1976. In 1977 they took a turn for the worse. Finally, William Clay Ford, the Lions' owner has made a move that may change things. He hired Monte Clark as coach and general manager. The former San Francisco Forty-Niner leader should be able to right the Lions—but it may take some time.

In the past, before being cashiered in a power struggle when Joe Thomas bought the San Francisco team, Clark had served for six years as the offensive head coach of the Miami Dolphins under Don Shula.

The Lions attack, the main reason they haven't had a winning record in five years, was 26th of 28th in the NFL. As usual, quarterback is up in the air. Veteran Greg Landry is being challenged by young Gary Danielson.

Injuries to RB Dexter Bussey, tackle Rockne Freitas, guard Mark Markovich and tight end Charlie Sanders destroyed the Lions attack. Lawrence Gaines, another running back will also be coming off injuries. Rick Kane filled in with 421 yards, and might get a regular job. The nonexistent offensive line allowed 54 sacks, the NFL high for the year.

Detroit did pretty well on defense, eighth overall in the NFL—and usually gets field position from kick return man Eddie Payton, brother of Walter. The Lions' position for 1978 will be third in the NFC Central.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers, embolded with a two game winning streak, will move up out of the cellar, and might even challenge Detroit if things don't go right in the Motor

City. Coach John McKay's team will switch to the three-four defense presenting Chambers, Ernie Holmes and Leroy Selmon. If Chambers is healthy, and Holmes motivated, visits to Tampa Bay may become unhealthy. The Bucs were 13th last year on defense, not bad for a two year old team.

The quarterback battle will revolve around Gary Huff, the pocket passer, Vince Boryla, and number one draftee Doug Williams. Williams, a noted pass master from Grambling has a shot.

McKay showed that he had matured when he sent his former USC buddy, scat back Anthony Davis to Houston for fullback Don Hardeman, who will team with Ricky Bell in the backfield, if Jimmy DeBose doesn't win a job.

Green Bay had a good draft picking WR James Loften of Stanford and linebacker John Anderson of Michigan, but they are, along with Kansas City, the most talent poor team in the NFL. GM-coach Bart Starr is under fire, and may not last the season.

It's his third year and things don't look like the Pack will ever be back. They have logged 4-10, 5-9, and 4-10, under Bart, who is still being handicapped by the draft choices outgoing coach Dan Devine gave away in the long ago deal for QB John Hadl.

QB Lynn Dickey broke a leg against Los Angeles and is questionable this year. Second year man David Whitehurst will get a shot, but Starr needs to juice up his passing attack. His ground "attack" was led by Barty Smith with 554 yards. 'Nuff said. This, along with a bad offensive line made the Pack the second worst offensive team in the NFL.

On defense, Green Bay is weak against the run, but was fifth overall against the pass, which kept them partially competitive. No matter, Green Bay will slide back to fifth and last, as the Bucs make Starr walk the plank.

A rain storm in Los Angeles which led to a 14-7 Minnesota win over the Rams in the playoffs last December blew coach Chuck Knox out of his job—and all the way to Buffalo. His replacement, former Ram coach George Allen, had been expousing his "the future is now" policy with the Washington Redskins.

Outside of Dallas, the Rams have the most talent in the NFC—and if any team has a chance to unseat the Cowboys, it is Los Angeles. They should win the NFC West for the sixth straight time. Allen's real season will start with the playoffs where the Rams have lost for five consecutive years.

The Joe Namath experiment forced on Knox by owner Carroll Rosenbloom has been "retired"—and Pat Haden is the QB. Roman Gabriel, from out of the past, is his backup.

On offense, the Rams produced 21.6 points per game, scoring 302 points while the defense posted three shutouts. At home they swept seven home games, but lost that key playoff.

Lawrence McCutcheon, the underrated super star, gained 1,168 yards in 1976 and 1,238 last year. He is backed by John Cappelletti, Wendell Tyler, and draftee Elvis Peacock from Oklahoma. Haden was third in the NFL behind Roger Staubach and Bob Griese. He has Harold Jackson, Billy Waddy and super tight end Charlie Young to throw to. And if Ron Jessie, hurt most of 1977 gets better, the Rams pass catching corps will be awesome. All of this is made better by a superb offensive line.

Their defense intercepted 25 passes last year, second best in the NFL. Their front four is solid and backed by linebackers Isiah Robertson, Jim Youngblood and Bob Brudzinski. When LB Hacksaw Reynolds held out, and finally settled his contract, he found himself on the bench. This year he has to fight for a job.

One weak point is their punting game which Allen has promised to do something about enroute to the NFC final playoff with Dallas.

Second place in the NFC West might go to Atlanta, but we don't think they can defend as well in 1978 as they did in 1977. We are staunch believers in Joe Thomas, the general manager of the San Francisco Forty Niners, and believe he will revive the 'Niners.

All by himself O.J. Simpson should generate more attack than did the Falcons in 1977, if his surgical knee is sound. An upward move from the uninspired, 5-9, of 1977 to something more like the 8-6 of 1976 is probable.

Thomas fired his 1977 coach Ken Meyer and hired Pete McCulley, who remained loyal to Joe during the revolt in Baltimore, in which Thomas was ousted, and Ted Marchibroda became top dog on the Colts. McCulley quit and took a job with Washington as an assistant. Now he is number two to Thomas, seemingly, a coach who doesn't mind taking orders from the front office.

Thomas gave away a passell of draft picks to get Simpson, but has wheeled and dealed since then to replace them by letting go DE Tommy Hart to Chicago, LB Dave Washington to Detroit and TE Tom Mitchell to Washington. It may take some time, but SF will get there. They will be respectable in 1978 if the Juice flows, and makes QB Jim Plunkett's air game harder to defend against. Anything has to be better than

Mel Blount Cornerback Pittsburgh Steelers

1977 when Plunkett's attack was 25th in the NFL.

The loss of Hart has broken up the Gold Rush front four with Cedric Hardman, Jimmy Webb and Cleveland Elam. In the past, Thomas moved out the veterans in Miami and Baltimore when he helped build those teams. The Forty Niners for second place.

Atlanta could even challenge Los Angeles if their defense does it again—and Steve Bartkowski, their QB is healthy. He must convert their anemic attack into one capable of putting points on the scoreboard.

Head coach Leeman Bennett and GM Eddie Le Baron proved they knew their way around the NFL in their rookie season, when Atlanta held the other guys to a mere 129 points, less than any team had permitted in 45 years. And the Falcons notched 109 of their 179 points when Bartkowski was playing.

Of course, both Bartkowski and running back "Bubba" Bean will be coming off knee surgery—and they have to rate as question marks.

Atlanta went 7-7 in '77 after 3-11, 4-10 and 4-10. They did it with a defense led by a front four of Claude Humphrey, Jeff Merrow, Jim Bailey and Mike Lewis. They sacked the QB 42 times, a new club record, and were helped by the secondary which had 26 interceptions. Denver with 150 points against, and Los Angeles with 166, were the two closest teams in the least points allowed stats, with the Falcons also setting a team record by allowing only 3,242 total yards.

On a hunch, the defense won't be that good again—and the going will get rough if the attack fails once more. The Falcons will flutter back to third place in the NFC West.

Last, but with some hope for once, are the New Orleans Saints, now coached by defensive genius Dick Nolan, the former coach of the Forty Niners before Clark.

New Orleans has acquired offensive guard Conrad Dobler, who will open more than one hole for running backs Chuck Muncie and Tony Galbreath and might give QB Archie Manning some decent pass protection.

Nolan hired Paul Wiggin, as his defensive co-ordinator, indicating he hoped to eventually install the Dallas flex defense. Something must be done, as the Saints were the second worst team against the rush in 1977, and the pass defense managed only eight interceptions all year.

The attack wasn't that bad, with Muncie and Galbreath combining for 2,024 yards in 1977, but too much of the air attack was of the short dump off variety to backfield men. Wide Receiver Ike Harris, also obtained from the Cardinals may give Manning a new and different weapon. No matter, as presently constituted, New Orleans is by far the worst team in the NFC West.

Imagine playing at home in the Super Bowl. That's the aim of coach Don Shula and his reborn again Miami Dolphins, who are taking dead aim at Super Bowl XIII, scheduled for the Orange Bowl in January. Picking the Dolphins over Baltimore and New England in the AFC East, Pittsburgh, Houston and Cincinnati in the Central, and Oakland and Denver in the West takes some doing, but we are convinced that Shula can pull it off.

"If our young players who did so well last year, continue to improve in 1978, we have every reason to hope for a really big season," said Shula. "That is the question which this season will answer. Was 1977 their normal

Don't pay in July and pray in October.
see page 113

level of ability, or will they continue to improve?"

In 1977, without Larry Csonka, Paul Warfield or Jim Kiick on the attack, and without Dick Anderson, Jake Scott, Nick Buoniconti or Manny Fernandez on their defense, they were 10-4 and just missed the AFC playoffs.

Bob Beathard, the Miami draft whiz, now the GM of the Washington Redskins is the man responsible for giving Shula and defensive coach Bill Arnsparger the material they needed.

Shula, unlike other successful coaches switched to the three-four. He placed rookies A.J. Duhe and Bob Baumhower with the veteran Vern den Herder. Now, the Miami three-four ranks right up there with Oakland's and Denver's.

Miami is deep in linebackers, and their secondary is populated with people developed by Shula, despite his personal differences with Scott and the injuries suffered by Anderson.

The key man in Miami, however, is still veteran QB Bob Griese, who is helped along by the veteran offensive line led by Super Bowl guards Larry Little and Bob Kuechenberg, who switched to tackle in injury emergencies in 1977 and did a fine job. Griese, wearing glasses for the first time, led the NFL with 22 TDs and the top percentage of 58.6. He was 180 for 307 and 2,252 yards.

Shula has stocked up with backfield people including Delvin Williams, the former Forty Niner obtained in the trade sending WR Freddie Solomon to the Bay area. Others, include youngsters Gary Davis, and Leroy Harris and vets Bennie Malone, Don Nottingham and Norm Bulaich.

Just winning the AFC East over Baltimore and New England will be tough, but that's when Miami plays the best. Miami for first in the AFC East.

The snake bitten Baltimore Colts will once more play second fiddle, this time in the AFC East after winning two straight divisional titles under somewhat fluky conditions.

Coach Ted Marchibroda is completely in charge now, and he depends upon QB Bert Jones, the best young passer in the NFL. Jones finished third in the AFC last year, without having the skills of the speedy WR Roger Carr, who was injured much of the season. Still, Bert was 224 for 393 and 2,686 yards, plus 17 TDs.

The big man in the Baltimore attack is Lydell Mitchell, currently in some disfavor with management according to inside sources. Mitchell, slight at 5-11 and 198, still ran for 1,159 yards, and led the NFL in pass receptions with an amazing 71 catches. The Colts led the NFL with 224 receptions as Jones filled the air.

George Kunz Tackle Baltimore Colts

The question being asked in Baltimore is can Jones do it again without help from a big fullback? Neither Roosevelt Leaks nor Ron Lee are the answer, although Leaks may once more get the job.

The defense was strong in 1977, but the Colts need to sign and satisfy DE John Dutton or move him. And they need luck in getting another exceptional year out of a defensive secondary which doesn't figure to do as well in 1977, when Baltimore allowed 221 points. Lyle Blackwood, previously a journeyman, led the NFL with 10 interceptions.

Up front, Mike Ozdowski may replace Dutton. Fred Cook, Joe Ehrmann and Mike Barnes, are competent rush linemen.

George Kunz leads a professional offensive line, but whether Jones and Company can outlast Miami is a moot point. However, they should edge New England, and squeeze into the playoffs via the wild card.

The luckless New England Patriots have a lot going for them, but once more it may come down to whether offensive linemen John Hannah and Leon Gray feel like working, or not.

Both Hannah and Grey didn't report until after the season had started, after demanding during pre-season that their contracts be re-negotiated. With them the offensive line is super, without them draftee Bob Cryder may become important.

AB Steve Grogan, a low percentage passer, but a great option runner needs the Messrs. Grey and Hannah to execute his sweeps and take the ball into the end zone himself when his air game fails. The return from injuries of tight end Russ Francis and running back Andy Johnson, excites coach Chuck Fairbank. He partners with Sam Cunningham and blocks for both Grogan and Cunningham. Johnson missed all of 1977. Cunningham got 1,015 yards, and Don Calhoun, Johnson's replacement 727 yards. Grogan threw for 17 TDs, but also forced the ball into crowds at times and was intercepted 21 times. He must stop this costly tactic. Some feel he should go long to Darryl Stingley and Stanley Morgan more often.

The Pats defense started poorly, but got together towards the last third of 1977. It allowed 217 points the fourth lowest figure in the AFC.

The key is the three-four with nose guard Honey Bear Hamilton, Julius Adams and Tony McGee up front.

One plus for the Patriots is kickoff return man Raymond Clayborn who ran back 28 kicks for 869 yards and a 31.0 average. Clayborn had a 100 yarder and a 101 yarder for TDs. New England could finish first, but third is more likely.

Picking between the Buffalo Bills and New York Jets is sticky. The Bills' acquisition of running back Johnny Miller, of Oklahoma State as the replacement for O.J. Simpson gives them a shot at edging out the Jets for fourth place. We'll still go with the

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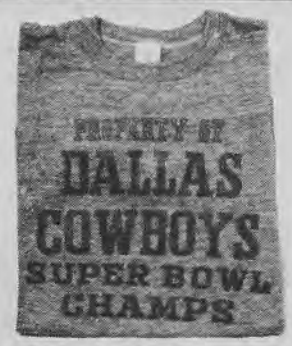

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Jets, and their pair of offensive linemen Marvin Powell and Chris Ward, acquired in the last two years, but coach Walt Michaels' team may have goofed when they passed Miller for Ward.

The Jets defense, as bad as it is, is better than the Bills' which makes like Switzerland's leading edible export. New York needs help in the running back spots, but their young QB, Richard Todd, is a budding star.

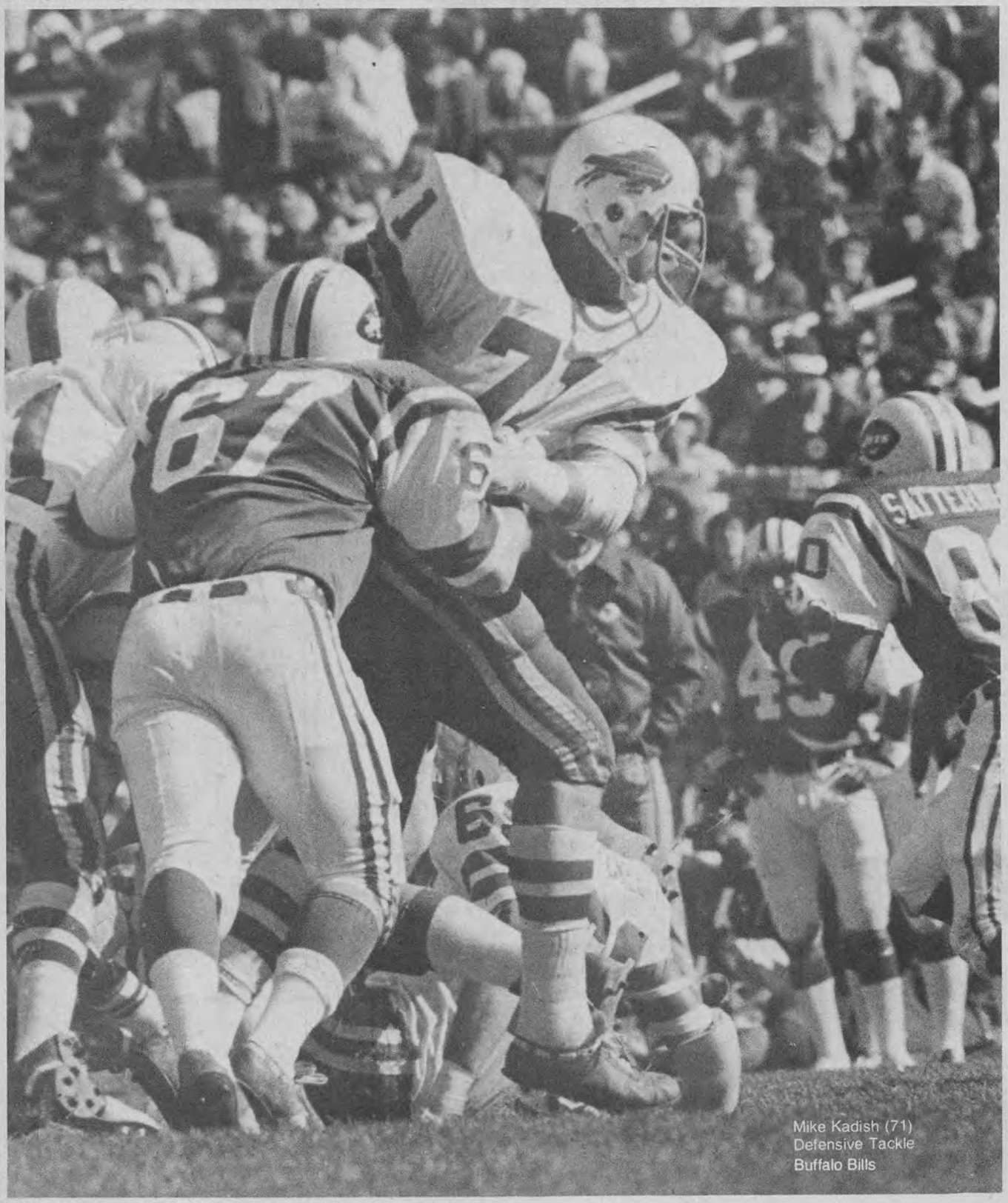
Buffalo has a super offensive line led by Reggie McKenzie, left over from the days when the Juice flowed through enemy lines. But QB Joe Ferguson's attack produced only 160 points with Simpson out. With a new coach, Chuck Knox, and rookie Miller as key people, it will take time to get oriented. Fergy put the ball in the air last year more than any other NFL QB, leading the NFL with 2,803 yards, but only produced 12 TDs, and was intercepted 24 times, the league high.

In the AFC Central picking the Oilers is like hoping for a gusher to come through, but there are some good reasons to do so. One is coach Bum Phillips and his solid three-four defense, with the linebacking of all pro Robert Brazile backing it up. Other plusses are a game breaking type attack which has just added the skills of number one draft Earl Campbell, the best big back to come out of collegiate ranks in ten years.

QB Dan Pastorini has built an att .ck which resembles that of the Cardiac Cardinals—a big play long range type of operation built around the speed of WR Ken Burrough and Eddie Foster. Despite a trouble filled year, both on and off the field, he hit for 1,987 yards and 13 TDs.

Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, the super return artist guarantees field position. Burrough caught 43 passes for 816 yards and eight TDs.

Phillips shipped disappointing fullback



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Don Hardeman to Tampa Bay for scatback Anthony Davis, who will be used as a return man. Ronnie Coleman, Bob Carpenter and Tim Wilson are other backfield candidates.

The Oilers' defense is mean, tough, quick and has experience. Nose guard Curly Culp leads Elvin Bethea and James Young, and the linebackers rival Denver's Orange Crush with Brazile and Gregg Bingham in the forefront.

One item concerns Phillips. He must sign ten players, all of them regulars, including Bingham, DE Andy Dorris, safety Mike Reinfeldt, linebacker Ted Thompson and safety C.L. Washington from the defensive platoon, and WR Gary Garrison, T Greg Sampson, G Elbert Drungo and RB Fed Willis from the attack, if he is to open the season with harmony and team cohesion. On a hunch Houston, for first place in the AFC Central.

Last year, might have been the year that the talented Cincinnati Bengal passed the Pittsburgh Steelers, except that when the Bengals play the men from Pennsylvania they roll over like tabbies and invariably lose big.

In recent years the Bengals have stockpiled draft picks, and this summer was no exception, when they led with 18. But their overall play lacks desire. Coach Bill Johnson and GM Paul Brown are banking on a return to 1976 form of QB Ken Anderson, who had a bad knee last year. He threw for 11 TDs and 2,145 yards, with a disappointing 51.4 percent. And Anderson led Cincinnati, to 8-6, with only 238 points, the fewest in the Central Division.

The one time pass happy Cincinnatis have a deep running corps led by Boobie Clark, Lenvil Elliott, Tony Davis, and Archie and Pete Johnson, plus Archie Griffin. Isaac Curtis, who partnered with Anderson in many a long bomb, in previous seasons, is back from the injury list.

Doug Plank Safety Chicago Bears

L.C. Greenwood Defensive End Steelers

In order to convert their regular four man rush line to a three-four, because of the impending retirement of sack leader DE Coy Bacon, Brown drafted DT Ross Browner from Notre Dame. Wilson Whitley and Eddie Edwards, two 1976 drafts of great promise, and Gary Birley round the candidates up front. The linebacking crew is adequate but has never really replaced Bill Bergey, who was swapped to Philadelphia four years ago in a contract hassle.

Because the Bengals aren't mentally tough, the pick is second once more, this time ahead of Pittsburgh, and behind Houston.

Picking the Steelers third is almost against apple pie and religion, but the Iron Curtain is starting to crumble. The signs were evident in 1977.

The one-two punch of RBs Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier plus QB Terry Bradshaw have kept the Steelers atop the Central for four straight years.

But even coach Chuck Noll's magic won't do it much longer. Attempts to build up a solid reserve behind Harris and Bleier have failed and the retirement of Frenchy Fuqua won't help the running game.

Bradshaw is also a question at times. He seems injury prone, and isn't the dominant leader of the 12-2 Super Bowl team of three years ago. Last year's 9-5 was a struggle, and Noll may give reserve QB Mike Kruczek a shot.

Terry's excellent passing stats are because of the excellent receiving corps he has in Lynn Swann, John Stallworth, Frank Lewis and Theo Bell. Harris ground out 1,162 yards in 1977 but Bleier fell off to 465. The offensive line may change if John Hicks, acquired from the Giants, wins a regular spot.

On defense, the old bugaboo, age is creeping up on the Steelers. Last season, Pittsburgh yielded 243 points in contrast to 138 for 1976, 162 for 1975 and 189 for 1974. Injuries hurt, but age and injuries come together. The banishment of Ernie Holmes to Tampa Bay in favor of Steve Furness may not help togetherness up front. Mean Joe Green isn't what he used to be. Neither is Mel Blount in the secondary. Jack Lambert's contract dispute has left scars which have affected the linebacker's play.

The Steelers could bounce back and win the Division again, but more likely they will continue to slide back to third.

Sam Rutigliano, the new coach of the Cleveland Browns has his work cut out for himself. He is in a very tough division—and he must recast his troops more than a little bit.

One thing needed in Cleveland is a better understanding of halfback Greg Pruitt's ta-

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Nov. 12 Washington by 3 Final Score Washington ..... 28 USC 10	Nov. 20 Chicago by 4 Final Score Chicago ..... 10 Minnesota 7	Nov. 26 Penn St. by 6 Final Score Penn State ..... 15 Pittsburgh 13	Dec. 4 NY Jets by 4 Final Score NY Jets ..... 16 New Orleans 13	Dec. 18 Tampa Bay by 3 Final Score Tampa Bay ..... 17 St. Louis 7

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Sept. 17 Texas A&M by 21 Final Score Texas A&M ..... 27 Virginia Tech 6	Sept. 17 Tennessee by 6 Final Score Tennessee ..... 24 Boston College 18	Oct. 1 UCLA by 17 Final Score UCLA ..... 34 Iowa 16
Oct. 2 Detroit by 3 Final Score Detroit ..... 17 Philadelphia 13	Oct. 16 NY Giants by 3 Final Score NY Giants ..... 20 SF 49ers 17	Nov. 6 Dallas by 14 Final Score Dallas ..... 24 NY Giants 10
Nov. 12 LSU by 3 Final Score LSU ..... 27 Mississippi 24	Nov. 20 LA Rams by 13 Final Score LA Rams ..... 23 SF 49ers 10	Nov. 27 Cincinnati by 17 Final Score Cincinnati ..... 30 NY Giants 13

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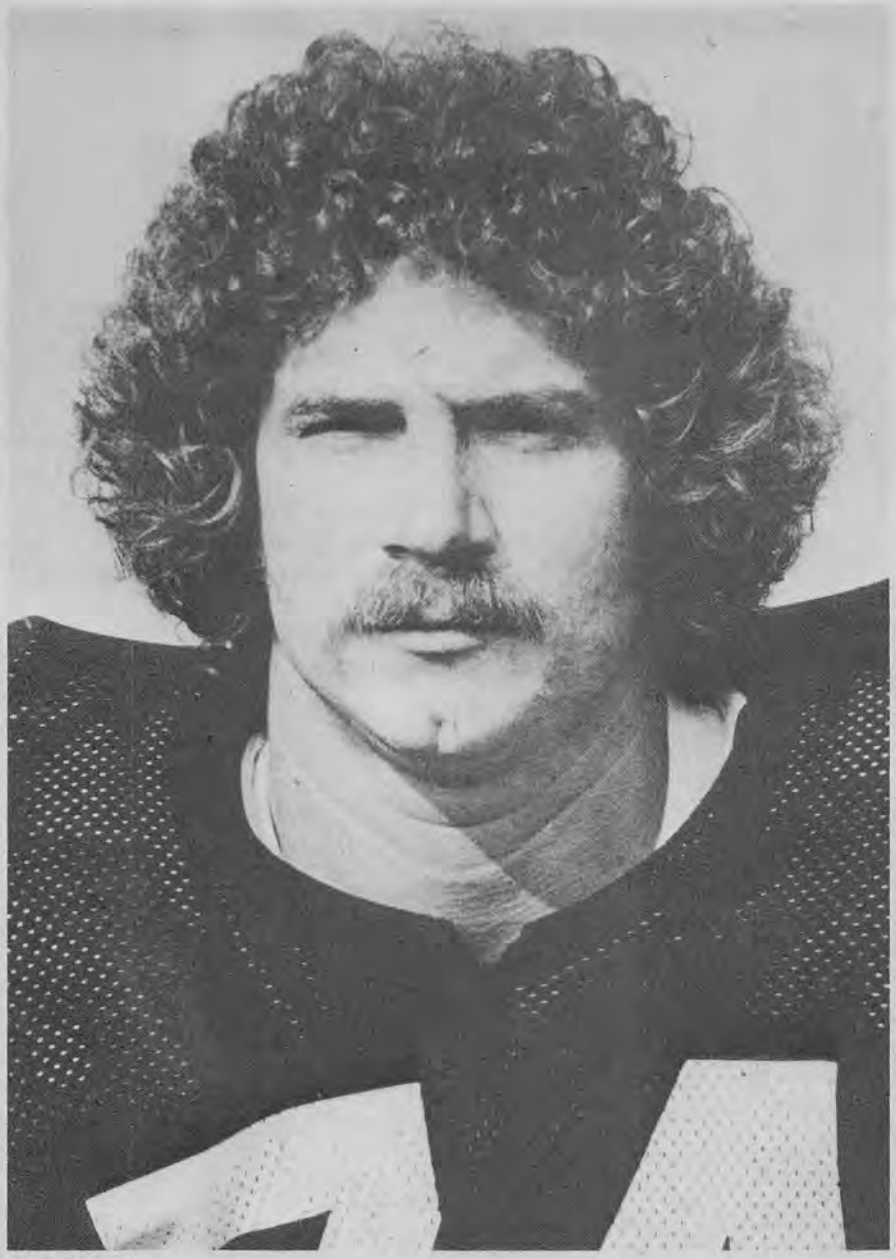

Glenn Bujnoch
Guard
Cincinnati Bengals

lents. Ex-Coach Forrest Gregg used him up the middle far too often. Even though the 5-10, 190 pound work horse ground out 1,086 yards, and caught 37 passes for 471 yards more, he scored only three TDs.

Owner Art Modell seems to be taking a gamble on a first year coach who never has been with a team with a winning record. Nonetheless, Rutigliano is considered to be one of the finest tutors in the NFL.

Isolating Pruitt, one on one, is the name of the game, as far as making the Browns attack work. Another trouble spot is QB where Brian Sipe slipped back after a fine effort in 1976. He totalled only 1,233 yards, the lowest of any starter in the AFC. However, Sipe did manage to put 269 points on the board, two more than the Browns defense allowed.

Cleveland's strength is their defense, with Jerry Sherk hoping to rebound to all pro status after tearing up a knee. Johnny Evans will be their new punter with some competition from Greg Coleman, who fell into the job in 1977 when Tom Skladany of Ohio State held out all year.

The Browns are in a rebuilding stage and will finish fourth in the AFC Central.

In the AFC West Oakland is the best team, barring injuries to key personnel or another magical season from the Denver Maniacs. Kenny Stabler played hurt all last year, and lost only two games. The Raiders lost another contest when he was unable to play, and San Diego beat them. That made them 11-3 to Denver's 12-2.

John Madden, the Oakland coach, and owner Al Davis, still feel that an official's decision took the AFC title game from them—not the Broncos.

Be that as it may, in 1977 linebacker Phil Villapiano, safeties George Atkinson, and Jack Tatum and cornerback Skip Thomas all missed important time. In the AFC title game, clutch receiver Fred Biletnikoff seperated a shoulder.

Stabler missed Biletnikoff, the tricky, if not fleet clutch catcher. He joins a stable of receivers which include Cliff Branch, and Mike Siani. The offensive line is very good, and will have back another of 1977's walking wounded tackle Jack Vella.

Mark van Eegan led the AFC with 1,273 yards, helped by speedy Clarence Davis and

third down plugger Pete Banaszak.

Madden switches back and forth from the normal front four to the new three-four and uses, according to the situation, down linemen from amongst Dave Rowe, John Matuszak, Otis Sistrunk, Pat Toomay and Mike McCoy.

Ted Hendricks is the leader of the linebackers. The secondary is speedy and adept, with punter Ray Guy the best in the NFL. Oakland, if things go right, could win everything. Certainly, they will finish first in the AFC West.

That makes the Orange Crush second. Denver will not experience the type of Rocky Mountain high that 1977 was. Red Miller was the coach of the year in 1977, but he faces a host of skeptics who believe he was lucky and cannot do it again, especially if retread Craig Morton is his quarterback.

With its Orange Crush defense and a magical season by Morton, who had been booed out of Dallas and New York, Denver went to the Super Bowl on a wave of euphoria. In New Orleans Dallas soundly thrashed the Broncos, tearing apart their smallish offensive line and making Morton look immobile.

Denver may need that extra wild card spot to qualify for the playoffs in 1978. Remember, Oakland competed in the post season frolic as the wild card team last season.

The Broncos will once more live by their wits, meaning their defense. They allowed only 150 points, the second best mark in the NFL. Miller has the best three-four in the NFL with nose guard Rubin Carter and his partners Lyle Alzado and Barney Chavous at tackle. Behind them Joe Rizzo, Non Swenson, Tom Jackson and Randy Gradishar were the best linebacking crew anywhere.

Louis Wright spearheads a super secondary, one which quarterbacks fear.

It is the offense which worries Miller. Morton was the number two passer in the AFC in 1977—and most observers don't think he can do it again. Haven Moses was Morton's big man in 1977, with kick return man Ricky Upchurch also providing a deep threat.

The offensive line is a concern, as it was torn apart by the much larger Dallas front four. Only offensive tackle Claudie Minor,

Fred Dryer
Defensive End
Los Angeles Rams

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see page 113

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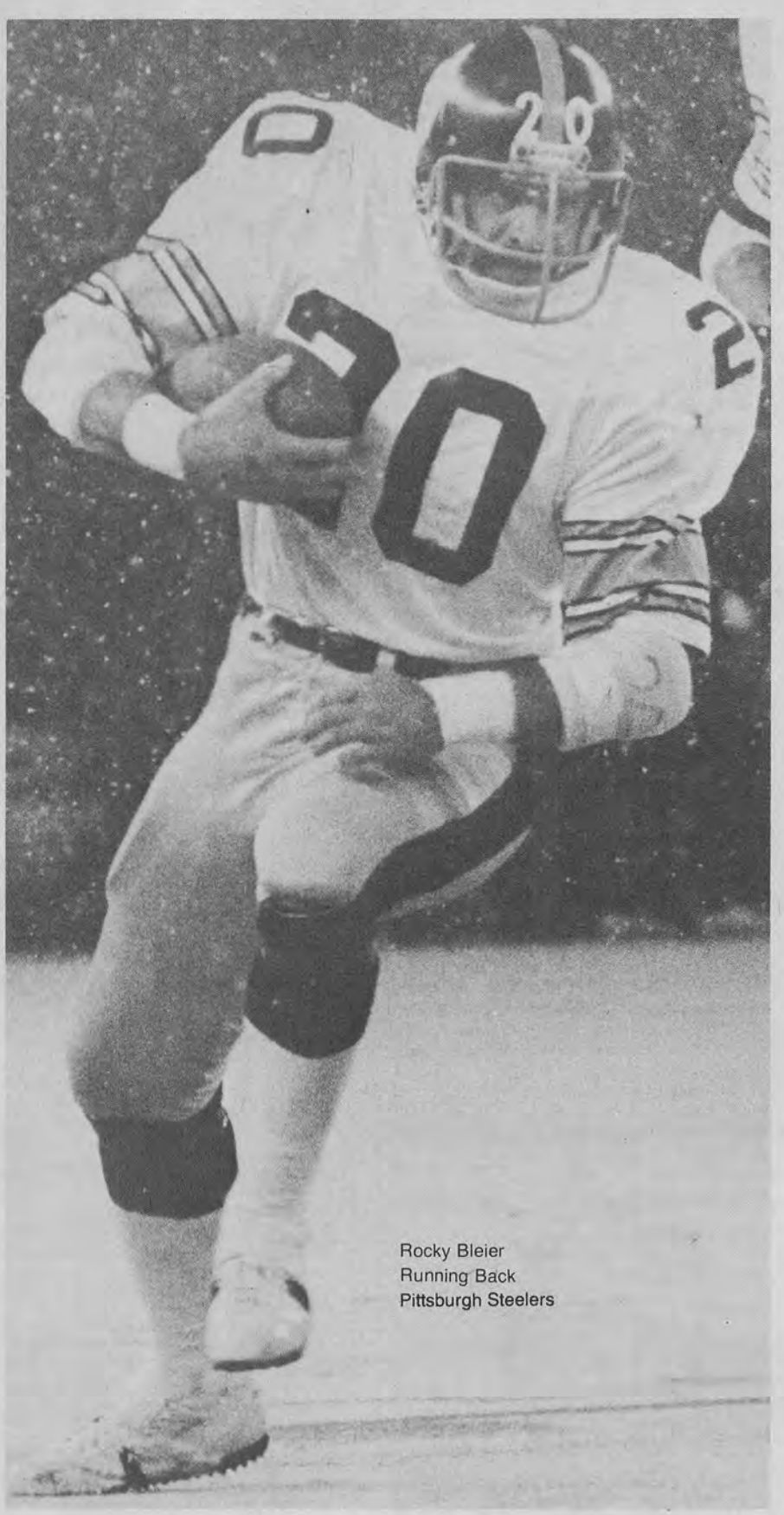


Rocky Bleier
Running Back
Pittsburgh Steelers

280, is really big by NFL standards.

Summing up, problems at quarterback, perhaps at running back where Otis Armstrong is reported on the way out, and in the offensive line threaten Denver's reign. Making the playoffs as the wild card may be all that Miller can accomplish, as an encore. Denver for second in the AFC West.

This may be the year that San Diego becomes charged up over their Chargers. If not, coach Tommy Prothro may walk the plank.

It wasn't Prothro's fault that QB Dan Fouts and the front office went with black QB James Harris most of last year, and allowed Fouts to sit out without a contract until late November. When Fouts returned he immediately displaced Harris, who had failed with Los Angeles in the past. He completed 69 of 109 aerials for 869 yards with a

63.3 percent of completion—a startling feat considering his four month layoff.

Harris had passed for 1,240 yards, but only got the ball into the end zone five times for TDs.

Fouts will have a power packed backfield to work with. Rickey Young, the man who was Walter Payton's running mate in college, led with a mere 543 yards in 1977. Don Woods had 405 and Joe Washington 217. These figures need to double if S.D. is to have a balanced attack.

Charlie Joiner, Larry Dorsey and return artist Johnny Rodgers, the former Heisman winner and CFL star head the receivers. Joiner led this talent with 35 catches for six TDs and 542 yards.

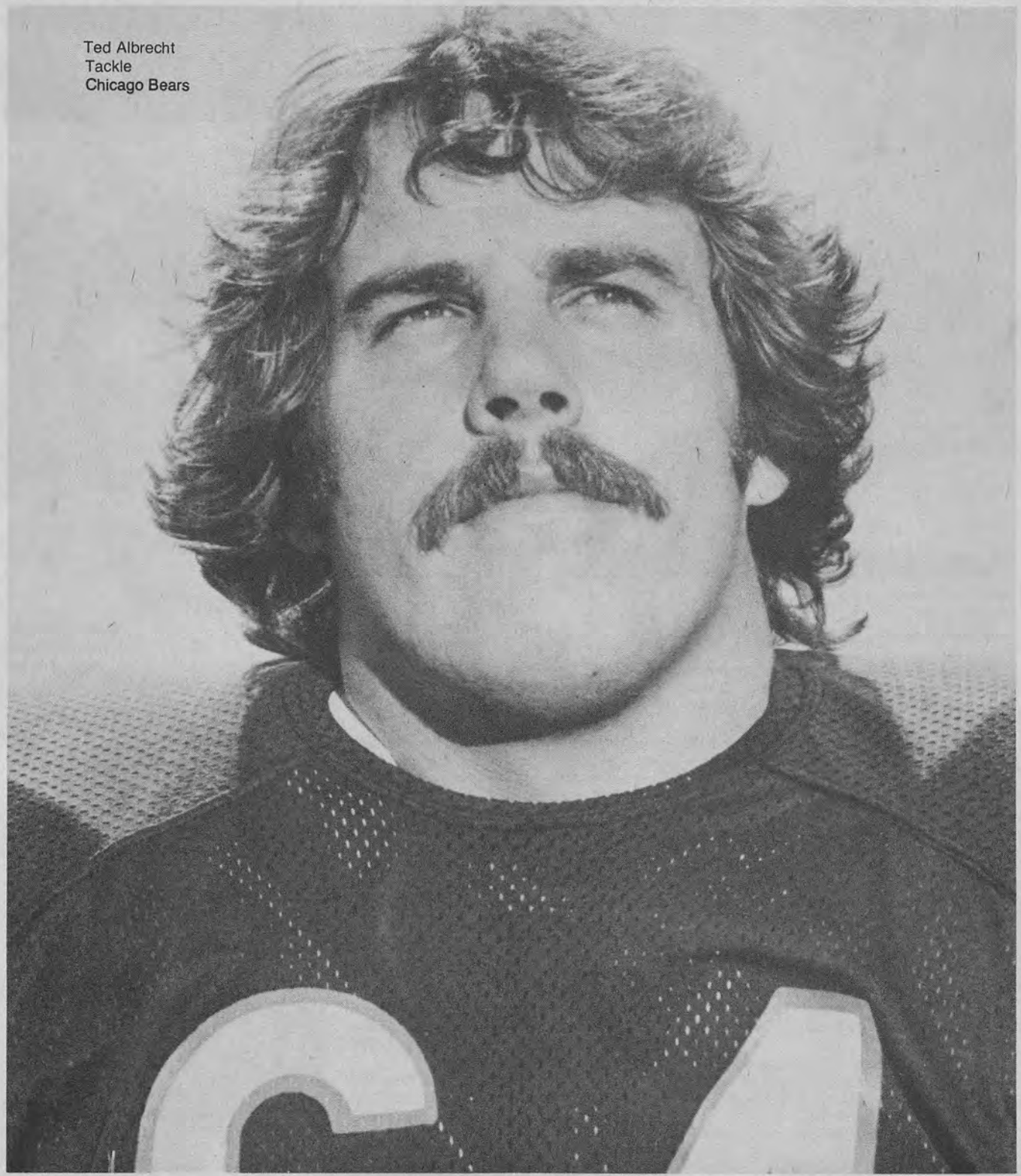
The offensive line is solid—and is one of the reasons the attack minded Prothro lifted San Diego from 2-12 in 1975 to 6-8 in 1976 and 7-7 last term.

The defense may be even better, with a front four which is beginning to mature. Leroy Jones, Fred Dean, Louis Kelcher and Gary Johnson are rated as one of the coming rush lines in the AFC. The linebackers and secondary aren't as good, but they are young and getting better. The Chargers held the other guys to 205 points in 1977, and hope to cut this again this season.

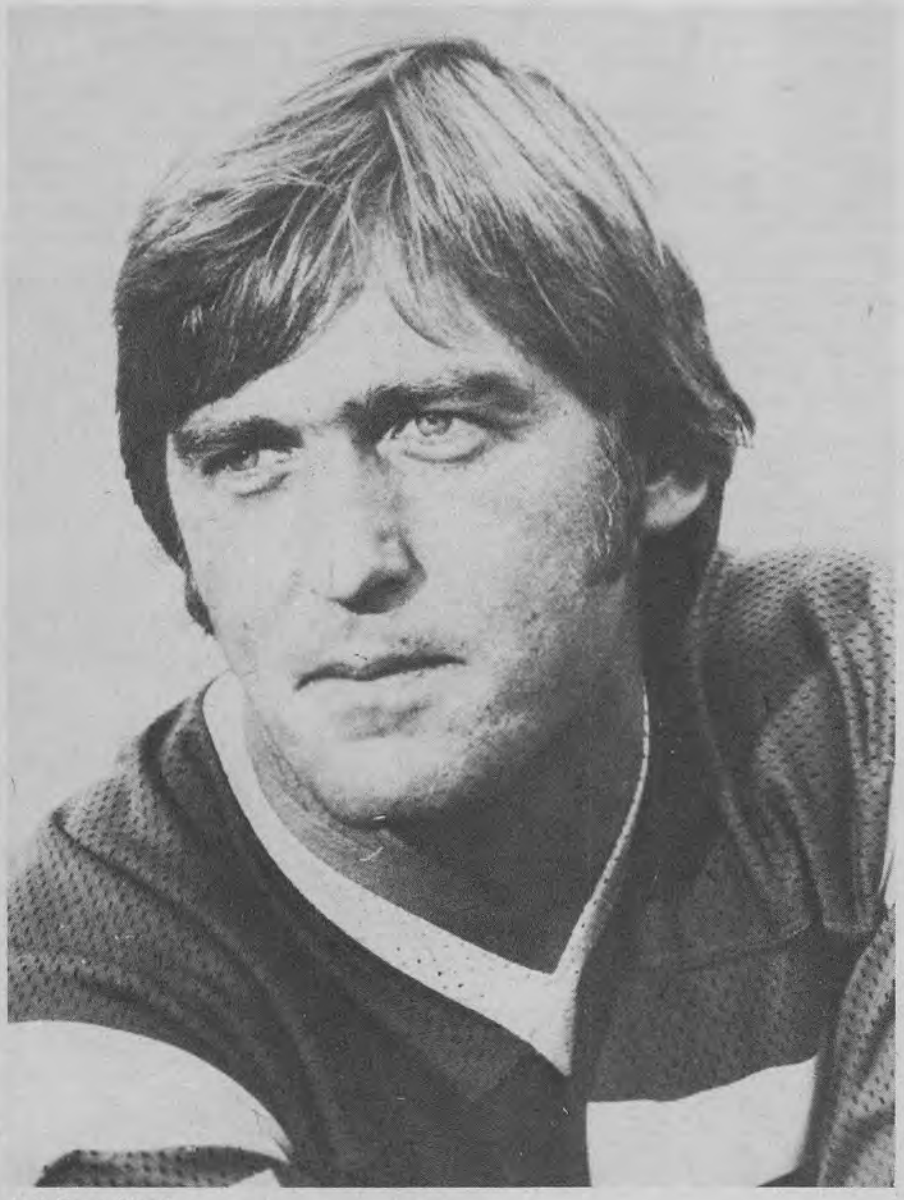
If Denver falters look out, San Diego may charge up in the standings. The Broncs owe the Chargers as it was San Diego's upset of Oakland last year which really gave Denver the AFC West title. The pick has to be third, but there are higher possibilities.

The three year old Seattle Seahawks puts points on the scoreboard with abandon, and, seemingly, in the erratic Jim Zorn have a left handed quarterback who can win games. Coach Jack Patera's young team won five games last year, a record for a second year team. They put a whopping 282 points on the board, but the opposition got 373—and there in is the rub.

Zorn, a 6-2, 200 pounder ranked at the bottom of the AFC passing stats with a lowly 41.4 percent, but he did manage to pass for 16 TDs—and has been described as a lefthanded Fran Tarkenton with his scrambling. *(Continued on page 130)*

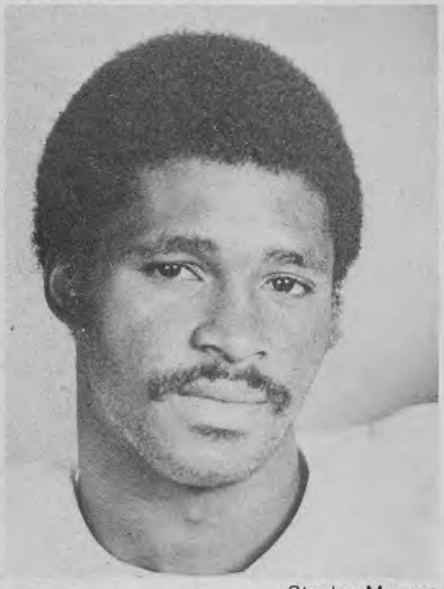


Ted Albrecht
Tackle
Chicago Bears

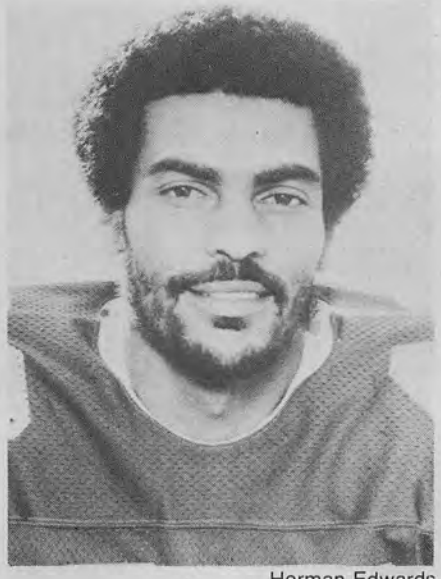


Jack Youngblood
Defensive End
Los Angeles Rams

Steve Largent
Wide Receiver
Seattle Seahawks



Stanley Morgan
Wide Receiver
New Orleans



Herman Edwards
Cornerback
Philadelphia Eagles

Sherman Smith and Don Testerman are bulldozer running backs with quick, but not fast, wide receiver Steve Largent as the key man when the ball is in the air. Largent, 5-11 and 184 caught 33 for 643 yards and 10 TDs. In 1976 he caught 54. Smith and Testerman aid by coming out of the backfield.

The offensive line, with original Dolphin Norm Evans leading the way is darn fine, but the defense is awful. Seattle went for defensive backs Keith Simpson and Bob Jury in the draft and also picked linebacker Keith Butler in the first three rounds. Patera hopes to build his defense around a potential all-pro second year middle linebacker Terry Beeson, who did well in 1977. Seattle for fourth, ahead of Kansas City.

In Canada picking coach Marv Levy for last place just wouldn't fly, but that's the position the former CFL mentor finds himself in.

Levy, whose Montreal Alouttes won the 1977 Grey Cup, Canada's Super Bowl, is starting with a talent poor Kansas City team. He drafted DT Art Still and will give most of the rest of his 12 draft picks a chance to play regularly.

The rebuilding Chiefs need everything—and are a far cry from the 1970 Super Bowl team. The trade of linebacker Willie Lanier to Baltimore cuts still another link with their glorious past.

Levy leans towards offense, but he must store up both facets of the Chiefs game. Mike Livingston, his QB is a loser, who has had only one good season in his 11 year tenure in the NFL. Ed Podolak, another Super Bowl vet led the "rushing" attack with a mere 550 yards. Ouch.

Tight end Walter White is genuine quality, but that's about it. The Kay Cee defense is a disaster area. Levy sent punter Jerrell Wilson to Houston, and replaced him with all time CFL hero Zenon Andrusyshyn, who also place kicks. This makes him a threat to Jan Stenurud, the long time Kansas City kicker.

It will take time, time for Levy to adjust to the NFL, and time to rebuild the Chiefs. Kansas City for fifth and last in the NFC West.

Earl Campbell could make like Tony Dorsett and lift the Oilers to the Super Bowl, but more likely the Orange Bowl will see a meeting of two time Super Bowl winners, coaches Tom Landry of Dallas and Don Shula of Miami. May the better coach win.

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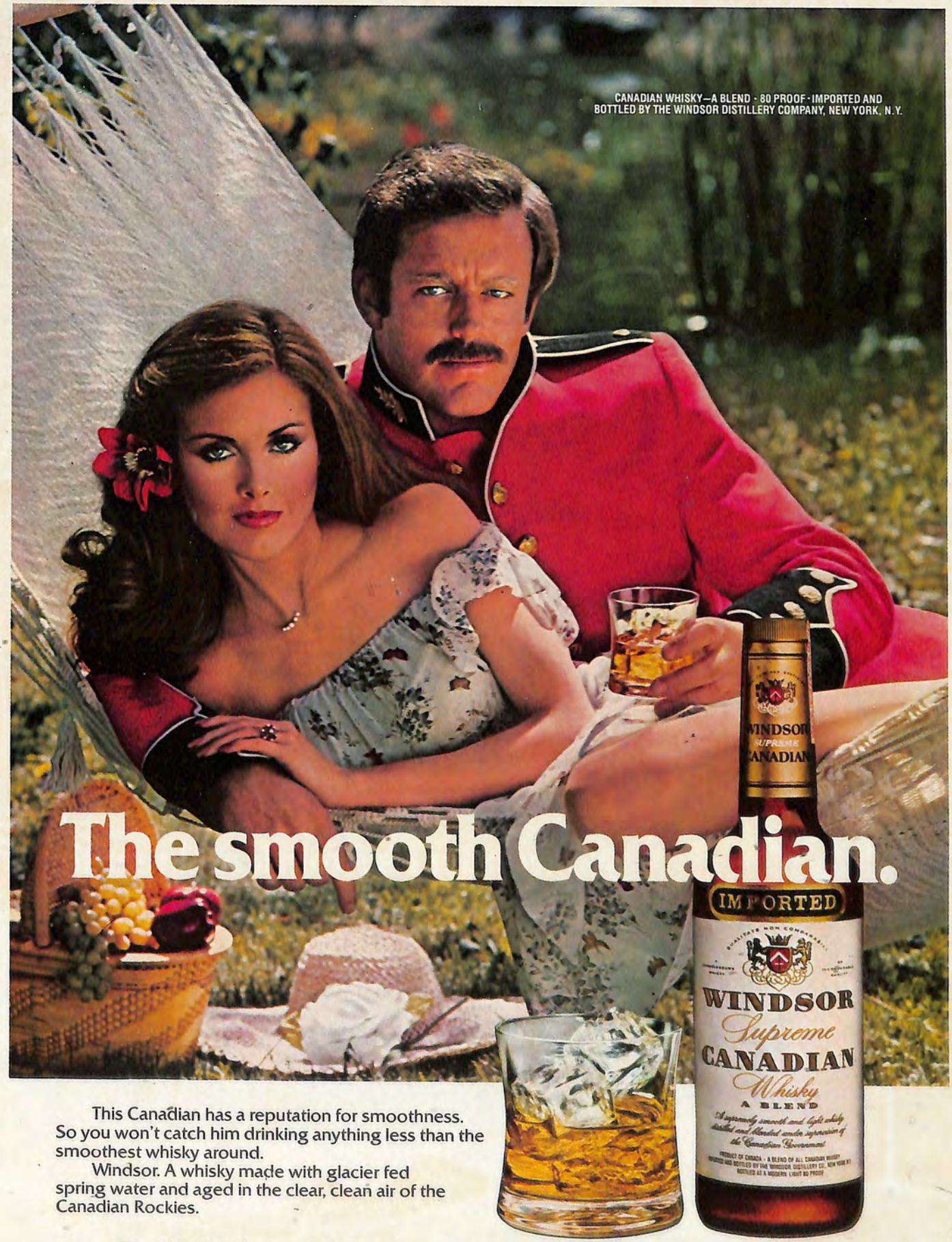

This Canadian has a reputation for smoothness. So you won't catch him drinking anything less than the smoothest whisky around.

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Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.
Kings, 17 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine; Longs, 18 mg. "tar",
1.3 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Aug. '77